

Thursday May 7 1998

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# The Guardian

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Search for the magic bullet

## Are we really closer to a cure for cancer?

G2 with European weather

Why Friday night's going to be All Wright

## Ian Wright, chat show host...

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online

## Wanted: greenhouse sceptics

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# Inquiry ordered into faked TV programme

### Producer fails to respond to damning evidence

Kamel Ahmed  
Brewer MacAskill  
and Michael Sean Giffard

**T**HE Independent Television Commission, the Government watchdog charged with upholding standards in television, has launched an inquiry into an award-winning Carlton documentary which was revealed yesterday as a fake.

The ITC acted after a Guardian investigation uncovered widespread deception during the programme which purported to show heroin smuggling from Colombia to London.

The Connection, which "stunned up" many of the sector's later shown as fact, won eight international awards and was praised as "risk-taking investigative reporting".

The ITC has called for a tape of the programme to be sent to its headquarters in London and has said that Carlton must answer a series of pressing questions raised by the Guardian.

"The ITC has asked Carlton for a tape of the programme and will be seeking responses from Carlton to questions which arise in relation to the ITC programme code."

"The ITC will also wish to examine the findings of Carlton's inquiry before reaching its conclusion."

The ITC's code demands that all factual programmes have "a respect for truth, whether on controversial topics or not".

Political pressure was also growing on Carlton last night as leading MPs said that rules governing the making of documentaries should be tightened.

Martin Bell, the former BBC war correspondent and now MP for Tatton, said that the Royal Television Society, which gave The Connection two awards, should set up a disciplinary committee to investigate the allegations.



John Maxton, a member of the House of Commons select committee on culture, media and sport, has tabled a series of parliamentary questions asking Chris Smith, secretary of state with responsibility for media matters, what action will be taken over the allegations.

Other MPs who voiced concerns were television veterans Austin Mitchell and Chris Mullin.

"If these allegations are proven, it will be a very serious blow to ITV," said Roger Bolton, one of Britain's leading documentary makers.

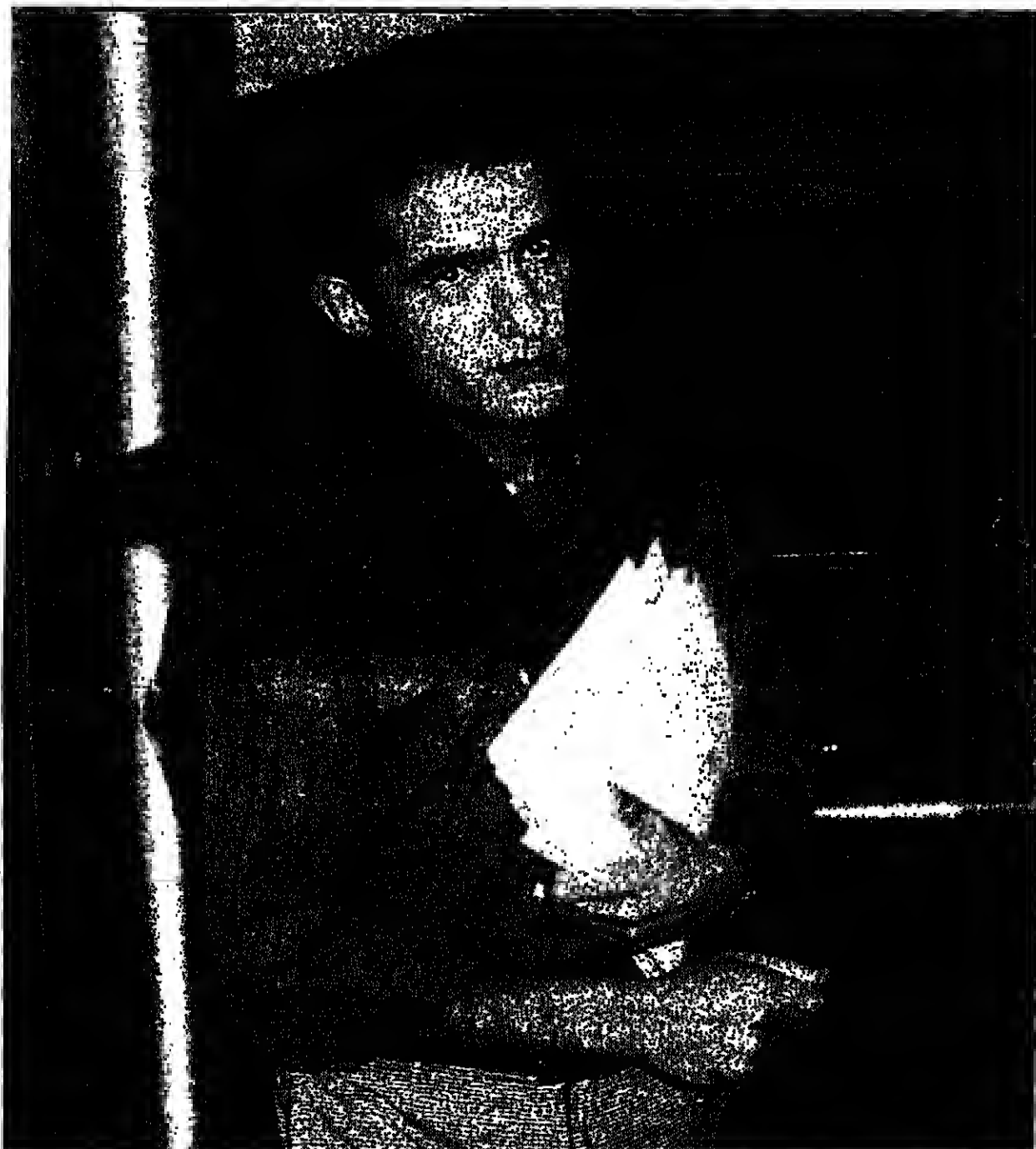
Roger James, Carlton's former head of documentaries, and Marc de Beaufort, the programme's producer, yesterday defended the programme.

In a statement, Mr de Beaufort said that he rejected the Guardian allegations and welcomed the inquiries into the programme. "I have repeatedly invited them [the Guardian] to interview me and view all the film's rushes in the face of their constantly changing allegations," he said.

Mr James said that the Guardian alleged that part of filming of the drugs cartel featured in the programme had taken place in London rather than in Colombia as the film suggested.

He also alleged the paper had claimed the film was "part of a conspiracy" that went to the highest level of Carlton.

Alan Rusbridger, editor of the Guardian, said that at no



Producer Marc de Beaufort leaving the Channel 4 studios in London last night after being interviewed. PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

stage in yesterday's 7,200-word article on the programme did the newspaper claim that there was a conspiracy, or that cartel interviews had been filmed in London.

"Neither statement from the two men has answered the central allegations contained in our investigation," he said.

The Guardian investigation uncovered five major deceptions:

- The "drugs mule" filmed by Carlton did not have drugs in his stomach when he flew to Britain.
- He did not get through customs at Heathrow as suggested but was deported.
- The man described as the

number three in the infamous Cali drugs ring was actually a retired bank cashier with low level drug connections.

- The mule's "continuous" journey from Bogotá to Heathrow was filmed in two stages, six months apart.
- His flight tickets were bought by the programme's producer.

Mr de Beaufort, in an interview for Channel 4 News, admitted that he could not prove that the man filmed had been swallowing heroin or that the Cali character, said to be the cartel's number three, was who he said he was.

The Fake Connection, page 8

## Firm attempts to patent meningitis bacteria

David King and Paul Brown

**A**N AMERICAN company has applied to patent one of the bacteria that causes meningitis. It could lead to royalties being paid on every treatment if a new vaccine against the illness is found.

The application is one of three filed with the European Patent Office by Human Genome Sciences (HGS), who are seeking to be the first to own the whole genetic sequence of bacteria. If the application is granted, as seems likely, it will open the door for commercial companies to patent any lifeform from which they think they can make money — including human gene sequences.

The prospect has appalled scientists in the field, who believe discoveries should be shared for the common good and that the scramble for patents for commercial gain will damage research.

There were 2,660 cases in England and Wales last year of the most dangerous meningococcal form of meningitis, of which 243 were fatal. Many of the victims of the largest outbreak for 50 years were young children. The illness strikes quickly and is difficult to diagnose.

Julia Warren of the Meningitis Research Foundation said: "The idea that someone should try to patent bacteria and then claim a royalty on our research if we find a vaccine had never occurred to me. I am stunned. It could make treating children prohibitively expensive. All our money goes on research: we cannot afford royalties as well. Will these companies accept responsibility if people die because we could not afford to vaccinate them?"

The Wellcome Trust, which encourages the sharing of gene research, also fears the



consequences. Cella Caulcott said: "There is evidence that commercial companies are doing research and then not publishing it while they look for ways to exploit the knowledge they have gained. Patenting the knowledge and so having the power to stop people developing vaccines and other preventive medicines for killer diseases would be an appalling result."

Until the American applications, scientists had restricted themselves to patenting individual genes or microbiological processes for which they had already isolated a commercial use. This new blanket patenting of an entire gene sequence covers any future possible use of the data for medical purposes.

Two of the three applications are for troublesome bacteria where active research is under way to find treatments. The first is *Haemophilus influenzae*, which causes meningitis and is one of the few strains for which an effective vaccine exists. However, most research is directed towards finding a vaccine for menin-

turn to page 3, column 7

George Monbiot, page 8

## Brown warns Suharto as Asian crisis deepens

### Six die in Indonesian riots as markets continue to plummet

Mark Atkinson and John Aglionby in Jakarta, and Larry Elliott

**T**HE Chancellor, Gordon Brown, yesterday warned President Suharto of Indonesia to improve his human rights record as escalating riots in the crisis-torn country claimed up to six lives and sent financial markets tumbling across east and south-east Asia.

With Indonesia teetering on the brink of financial collapse and violent protests spreading from campuses to the streets, Mr Brown stressed that the Suharto regime risked losing Western financial support if it continued its

brutal suppression of social unrest.

Police fired tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition to ward off looters in the northern city of Medan as the rupiah crashed by more than 8 per cent against the US dollar, wiping almost 5 per cent of the value of the stock market, as dealers took flight.

"What's happening in Indonesia is beyond economics," said Water Chung, managing director at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. "I'll try to stay away from that country."

In a renewed outbreak of the contagion that gripped the region late last year, currencies and shares from Japan to Malaysia were also affected

**Far East collapse**

Share price	Change
Indonesia (Jakarta)	down 1.2%
Malaysia	down 1.5%
Share price	Change
Indonesia (Jakarta)	down 1.2%
Malaysia	down 1.5%
Share price	Change
Indonesia (Jakarta)	down 1.2%
Malaysia	down 1.5%

even countries that emerged relatively unscathed last year — such as Singapore — were caught in the fallout.

Mr Brown, who had an hour-long meeting with General Suharto as representative of the G8 finance ministers, made it clear that he was appalled by the violent clamp-down on dissent.

The Chancellor told The Guardian: "There's no place for repression in any society and the critical reform that is needed in Indonesia is something that will be supported across the international community."

Referring to the rise in tension in recent days, a Western diplomatic source said: "We are now on the cusp, it could go either way."

According to senior government sources, Mr Brown used his audience with the president to reinforce the message

that the British government believes respect for human rights and political reform are central to continued Western help.

"The message was polite but firm — the president has to learn that he can't just keep using strong-arm tactics to counter genuine social distress," said one.

The current wave of unrest is the result of the tough terms imposed on Indonesia by the International Monetary Fund as the price of a bail-out package last October.

Gen Suharto was forced last week to slash heavy state subsidies on electricity and fuel, leading to a 71 per cent price increase, after the IMF turned off the aid tap as a mark of displeasure at what it saw as backsliding on economic reform.

Rioting and looting continued yesterday in the city of

Medan and also spread to nearby towns. More than thousands burnt and looted dozens of shops and vehicles in the centre of Medan for the third day. Ethnic Chinese covered behind shutters while armed soldiers stood guard. The Chinese minority, which dominates commerce in the mostly Muslim nation, is often targeted when social discontent boils over.

The dead were either burnt in blazing buildings or shot by soldiers.

The commander of the armed forces, General Wiranto, arrived in Medan last night to take command of the operation to quell the unrest.

Violence also rocked Bandung in Java and Ujung Pandang in Sulawesi.

Leader emerges from the flames, page 7; Leader comment, page 9

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Vintage line-up... The Beatles in Hamburg in 1961 with drummer Pete Best (left), predecessor of Ringo Starr, and 'fifth Beatle' Stuart Sutcliffe (right) PHOTOGRAPH: ASTRO KIRCHNER/REDFERNS



Beatles for sale: the disputed CD PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES HORTON

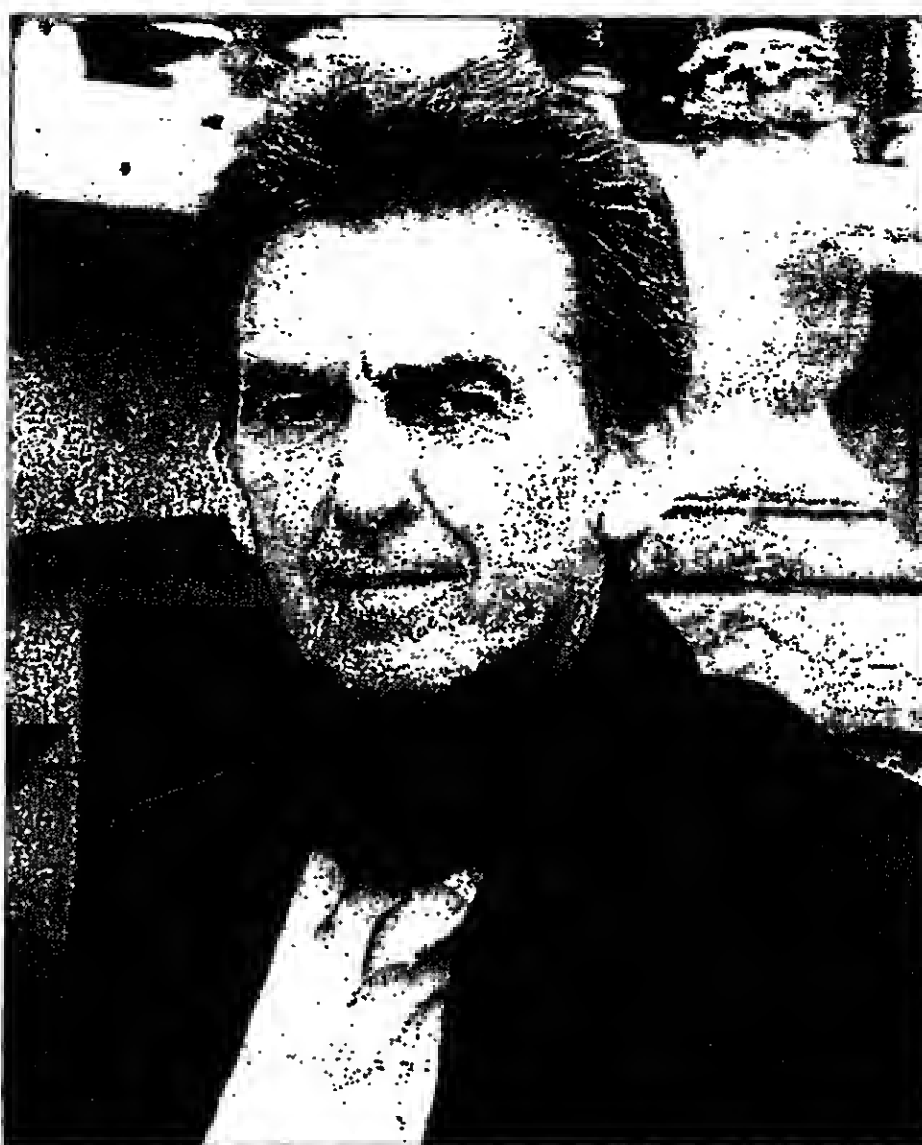
**Dan Glaister** hears George Harrison relive the Beatles' rise to fame, while covering vintage tracks with disdain for nostalgia in court clash over Hamburg tapes

## 'I don't believe in yesterday'

FOR George Harrison it was "good boring." But to an enthralled audience of journalists and lawyers, it was an excuse to listen to anecdotes about the Beatles' rise to stardom. However, Harrison undermined his submission to the court when he expressed disdain for Beatles nostalgia. "Unlike the experts who wallow in Beatles trivia I spend a lot of time getting the junk out of my mind through meditation, so I don't know or remember — I don't want to know or remember — every last detail because it was trivial pursuit."

The three surviving Beatles and Yoko Ono claim that the recording was made without permission and should be returned to them. At the time the band was enjoying success with its first single, Love Me Do, and had signed a contract with EMI. Since then the rights to the recording had been offered for sale — twice to representatives of the Beatles — and parts of it were even released on an album in 1977. The defendants, Lingasong Music Ltd, now plan to release a CD version of the recording, originally made by Edward Taylor, leader of the obscure 60s band King Size Taylor and the Dominos, who shared the bill with the Beatles at the Star Club.

former Beatle put on his spectacles to recount the "wild early" days of the popular beat combo. It involved, he told Mr Justice Neuberger, "a lot of teenagers getting drunk, playing rock 'n' roll. That's how it was. It was just a wild thing." The Star Club, he explained, was a rough place where the waiters would use tear gas to clear sailors out if there was a fight on Saturday night. "I kept well out of it. There were also some quite nice people who went to the club. They weren't all gangsters and transvestites — there were teenagers and art students. But by 2am on Saturday it was just hell." Harrison, who admitted that "I drew the short straw and had to go to court for Apple," the Beatles' company, took the opportunity to give the court a flavour of his early relationship with Lennon, 16 months his senior. "When I joined, he didn't really know how to play the guitar: he had a little guitar



George Harrison leaving court yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: TIM VICKERY

with three strings on it that looked like a banjo. I put the six strings on and showed him all the chords — it was actually me who got him playing the guitar. He didn't object to that, being taught by someone who was the baby of the group. John and I had a very good relationship from very early on." But Lennon's sophisticated art school friends were sceptical of his association with Harrison. "It would be 'What's he doing hanging about with the kid?' But everybody found that out later, didn't they?" The case continues.

## Major joins Blair to sell peace deal in Ulster

John Maffin  
Ireland Correspondent

TONY BLAIR flew into Northern Ireland last night, linking up with his former political foe John Major to kick-start the campaign for a yes vote in the forthcoming referendum on the Good Friday agreement. He said it was time to leave behind the ghosts of the past and grasp the opportunities of the future. Mr Blair arrived in Belfast as Sinn Féin's national executive confirmed that it would be asking its 1,400 delegates at Sunday's special conference to back the deal. It also wants them to amend the party's constitution to allow successful candidates in the election to the proposed assembly to take their places. Mr Blair had again warned during Prime Minister's Questions that the IRA would have to begin decommissioning weapons before Sinn Féin could join the power-sharing executive. That theme dominated a question-and-answer session at the Waterfront Hall with pupils drawn from 11 schools across Northern Ireland.

60,000 members in Northern Ireland to reject the deal over worries about RUC reform, the release of terrorists and decommissioning. Mr Blair will attempt to persuade the Orangemen that the principle of consent is enshrined for the first time. He called that the "single most important element" of the agreement. He explained: "One of the reasons I am meeting the Orange Order and a lot of other people over the next two weeks is so that people can put their fears and have them answered. When people read the agreement and pose the hard questions, the answers are there." Mr Blair paid tribute to Mr Major after the pair, in relaxed mood, fielded questions from pupils for an hour. Mr Blair, 45 yesterday, joked that he had consulted his horoscope that morning. It read: "Beware the people you meet this evening." He added: "It is important to have John Major with me both to indicate that people across the political spectrum can unite around this agreement because it is fair, right and reasonable and because he was the person who put this under way." "We would not be in this position if he had not had the courage to take the first steps towards peace. I salute him for that." But he told the schoolchildren, a Yes vote was only the beginning. Making the agreement work was the real test, but one to which he believed the people of Northern Ireland would rise. The Prime Minister later met the Parades Commission and RUC widows and disabled ex-policemen. He flew back to London after three hours. Mr Major had earlier addressed a Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce meeting in Cultra, Co Down. He made it clear he understood the reservations of the No lobby, but nevertheless believed they were "wrong, plain wrong". There was no alternative to a Yes vote.

## US firm seeks to patent bacteria

continued from page 1 gonococcal meningitis, for which as yet no patent has been applied but is certain to follow if this application succeeds. Another patent has been applied for *Mycoplasma genitalium*, which is usually sexually transmitted and causes urethritis, a painful inflammation. The Department of Health is investigating a screening programme for this illness. The third bacteria causes no human disease, but if a gene is extracted for any medical application royalties would be due. The applications, each the thickness of a telephone directory, have been filed at the British Library in advance of a debate on patenting in the European parliament on Tuesday. This is expected to agree a new EU directive which backs the idea that all lifeforms can be patented for profit. Until now the idea that living organisms can be patented has not been thought to be acceptable on legal grounds because a patent involves both an invention and an industrial application. A

gene sequence is merely a discovery and was not previously thought possible to patent one. The applications are based on the work of Dr Craig Venter, who pioneered large-scale gene sequencing. He originally tried to claim patents on small fragments of genes but has since said he is opposed to the idea. However, his erstwhile partner, William Haseltine, who runs HGS, has applied for 200 patents on individual human genes, and says it is legitimate business. "We were the first to discover these genome sequences and to describe practical medical benefits. We have broken no new ground and acted within established patent rules." He accepted that scientists had never before attempted to patent a living organism. Wendy Watson of the Hereditary Breast Cancer Helpline, said: "Genes are becoming a global currency and patents mean that currency will end up in the hands of a select few. We may end up with monopolies we cannot overrule. This will harm patients."

## Italian police hold 'Chameleon' murders suspect

Foreign Staff

ITALIAN police last night arrested a man in connection with a series of murders on the country's Italian Riviera. The man is to be questioned about the death of a Nigerian-born prostitute, one of 10 killings being linked by police. Eight of the dead have been women.

The suspect was arrested by paramilitary carabinieri in the Mediterranean port city of Genoa. He is due to be questioned today. "He was one of the people who have been under suspicion in the past few days," prosecutor Vincenzo Scolastico told reporters. Police and prosecutors have been repeatedly wrong-footed since February 3 when a prostitute called Silvana Bazzoni

was found dead on the motorway between Genoa and Savona. At first they thought they were investigating a gang war involving pimps and their "turf". Vice in Italy can be a bloody business. Native Italians are involved in a battle to hold their own against competition from Africans and east Europeans. So when Donika Hoxhohari, a 26-year-old Albanian,

was found dead at Albenga on February 6, investigators assumed it was the payoff for the murder three days earlier. Then, a month after that, Stela Truja was killed at Varazze. She too was an Albanian, and that broke with the expected pattern. By the time Ljudmila Zuskova, a Ukrainian, was found dead in Pietra Ligure, a serial killer was suspected

and dubbed the Chameleon because of his ability to vary his targets and tactics. Within a month, two more prostitutes — a Nigerian, Tessa Adodo, and another Albanian, Kristina Valla — were dead. But at least investigators now knew, or thought they knew, what they were dealing with: a murderer with a specific grudge against prostitutes. The Nigerian-born woman

was killed in the north-western town of Cogoleto on March 29. Five other prostitutes have been killed in the same Liguria region. Two security guards who went to the aid of a transvestite being attacked in Liguria were also shot dead earlier this year. Police said last month they believed all the murders could be linked and that they were hunting a serial killer.

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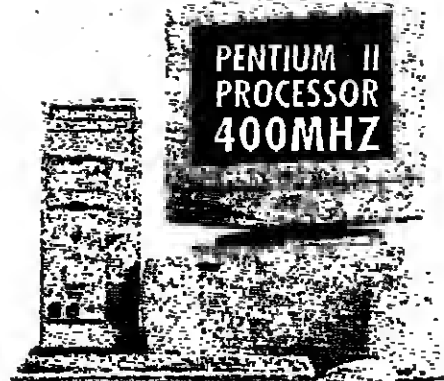
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# Scottish Labour tries to recapture lost ground

**Devolution: Dewar hastens launch of Edinburgh parliament as SNP nudges ahead in polls**

Peter Hetherington

MINISTERS yesterday publicly acknowledged the threat of Scotland edging towards independence in elections next year after an opinion poll gave the Scottish National Party a lead over Labour for the first time.

Amid mounting concern over Labour rapidly losing ground to the SNP in recent surveys — not to mention a string of council by-elections — the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, announced that the launch date of the new Scots parliament would be brought forward five months to July 1999.

His Minister of State, Brian Wilson, insisted the announcement was unconnected with the latest opinion poll, in The Herald newspaper, which gave the SNP a 5 per cent lead over Labour.

But on BBC Scotland, he acknowledged the threat from

the SNP posed problems for Labour. "We have to ensure that the basically strong support which exists for the Government is also reflected in voting intentions for a Scottish parliament."

Earlier, in announcing his decision to bring forward the parliament's launch date from early 2000, Mr Dewar said: "Very shortly after elections we will be ready and in a position to go and see no point in delaying. There will be a whole squad of newly-elected MSPs (as the new parliamentarians will be called) and I do not think it is fair to have them sitting around while decisions are being taken by the Secretary of State."

Ministers dismissed SNP claims that they had been panicked into making the announcement in an attempt to seize the political initiative.

But over the past few weeks, the party hierarchy has become so concerned about Scots turning against Labour — in marked contrast to the party's consistently

high standing in England — that it has set up a high-level strategy committee to plan for next year's parliamentary elections. The group includes the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and some of his key supporters, with Mr Wilson apparently joining later to counter the Brown axis alongside another Blairite, Armed Forces Minister John Reid.

On the surface, the latest opinion polls paint an apparently contradictory picture. Earlier this week ICM, in a survey for Scotland on Sunday, showed that Labour still dominated the Westminster polls, it credited the party with 47 per cent — one point up on its general election performance in Scotland — with the SNP trailing at 27 per cent and the Tories and Lib Dems on 16 per cent and 9 per cent respectively.

But Scots, already well acquainted with tactical voting, are clearly treating next year's elections — when they will have two votes — in a different light.

In the 129-member parliament, 73 MSPs will be elected by the conventional first-past-the-post system. But the remaining 56 will come from party lists, drawn from eight regions and elected by pro-

portional representation. This will effectively ensure that no party will have an overall majority and Labour has been widely expected to form a coalition with the Liberal Democrats — to keep out the nationalists. The SNP is insistent that its price for joining a coalition — presumably with the Liberal Democrats as well — will be early agreement on an independence referendum, when Scots would be asked if they wanted to break with Britain.

In reality, the SNP leader, Alex Salmond, a moderate nationalist, would probably settle for less if it meant his party achieving some power for the first time.

In its survey, ICM showed that in the first constituency vote in next year's election Labour was narrowly ahead of the SNP, with 42 per cent to the nationalists' 36 per cent. But in the second regional vote, the SNP edged ahead with 39 per cent to Labour's 36 per cent — underlining the long-held view that the SNP is a strong second-preference party. Opinion polls have consistently shown that around a third of Labour voters back outright independence while, paradoxically, a large minority of SNP voters shy away from separation.

## Astronomers see the light after 12 billion years

Tim Radford  
Science Editor

IT WAS the biggest burst of light ever seen. The explosion, only lasted a second or two, but it blazed as brightly as all the other stars in the universe put together.

The mysterious burst of gamma rays happened on December 14 last year, in the constellation Ursa Major. It was spotted by an Italian-Dutch research satellite, and then by one from NASA.

After a flurry of phone calls had alerted astronomers all around the world, an optical telescope in Arizona was swiftly trained on the embers of a mysterious flood of energy equal to the light of 10 billion trillion stars — and pinpointed the source.

That was how the astronomers caught in the act a catastrophic event 12 billion light years away — near the begin-

ning of time itself.

"You need luck, persistence and quick thinking to catch these events," said David Helfand of Columbia University. "We think of ourselves as an astronomical SWAT team."

What they recorded was a gamma ray burst. These mysterious flashes are the hottest things in the sky — but they are invisible. The radiation is absorbed by the Earth's atmosphere, and it was not until satellite were launched to police international nuclear test ban treaties that they were spotted.

However, once they were recorded, the questions multiplied. The wavelengths measured by astronomers gave no clue as to how far away the fireballs were, or precisely where in a particular sector of the heavens.

What scientists needed was to see something explode and fade at the same time as they detected the gamma radiation.

They used one of the world's largest telescopes, the 10 metre Keck II telescope on Mount Mauna Kea, Hawaii, to find the galaxy. The object was so faint it was equivalent to observing a 100-watt light bulb from a million miles away.

The story of how groups of American, Indian and Italian astronomers sharing the data caught the fleeting fireball in the act of lighting up the universe is told in the science journal Nature today. But no one knows for certain what actually happened to make a hitherto unknown star — or galaxy — called GRB971214 catch fire. One guess is that it represents the sudden death of a star 80 or 100 times more massive than the Sun.

"For one or two seconds, this burst was as luminous as all the rest of the entire universe," said George Djorgovski, of the California Insti-

tute of Technology. "In a region about 100 miles across, the burst created conditions like those in the early universe, about one millisecond after the Big Bang."

Gamma ray bursts are rare — the galaxy that is home to Earth might experience one only once in 100 million years. But as the universe is so big, astronomers reckon there could be on average three every day.

Dr Ralph Wijers of the Institute of Astronomy was a member of a team that recorded an earlier explosion of gamma rays last year. He sees the hursters as throwing light on the history of creation. This confirms the fact that these things are indeed so large that we can see them out to the far edges of the universe. Within the next five years we could be probing what the universe looks like very soon after the first stars and galaxies were born."



Arthur Ransome's boat, the Nancy Blackett, with Brigit Sanders, Taqui Stephens and Susan Villard aboard. The three women were the originals of crew members in the Swallows and Amazons stories

## Ransome fans wary of commercialism

**John Ezard reports on a storm among Swallows and Amazons over 'tacky' marketing operation**

A SPECTRE is haunting the innocent outdoor world of writer Arthur Ransome's admirers — the thought of T-shirts printed with slogans like *Amazons Do It Amidsips*.

It has been raised by the disclosure of confidential talks about a proposal to cash in on Swallows and Amazons and their famous crossed flags logo.

The scheme is to use these to endorse outdoor and sailing holidays, camping equipment, food and clothes. It has been under private discussion between the 2,000-member Arthur Ransome Society and an unnamed marketing group.

Its disclosure generated an angry squall which society leaders were trying to calm yesterday. They were trying to get a resolution to suspend Peter Roche, the trustee who revealed the discussions, withdrawn from the annual conference this month.

Opposition to commercialisation has been led by Brigit Sanders — the original of one of the Amazons in Ransome's sailing stories.

The proposal, put to the society last year, was discussed by trustees and Ransome's literary executors. But Mr Roche, East Anglian branch chairman, disclosed it to his local annual

meeting in November. Only 20 members were present, but the news spread like wildfire, conjuring fears of a Diana-style marketing operation.

"There was concern that, once you go down the Diana road, you get tacky stuff," secretary Bill Jones said.

"We want a bit of a cooling-off period now. Everything has got a bit heated."

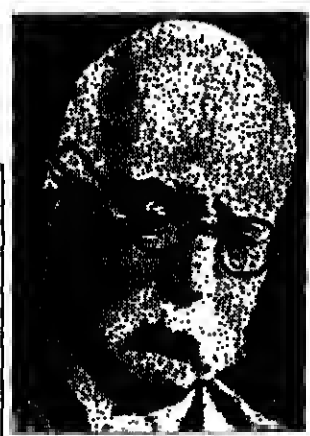
In an appeal to members after his suspension was announced, Mr Roche wrote: "I have done nothing underhand. I could not sit back and watch this society possibly be scuppered."

Defending his disclosure, he said: "They wanted to hush the thing up, that's what I was against. In a society like ours there shouldn't be any secrets."

Mr Roche said he felt the dispute was now resolved. It is understood letters are being drafted to see if a compromise can be reached withdrawing the resolution to suspend him.

Last night, one of Ransome's three literary executors, the publisher, John Bell, said he had seen draft proposals for "extensive commercialisation" of the author's name.

"Some of the ideas were quite good, others not good. We would quash any suggestions about T-shirts. Any firm proposals would be carefully scrutinised to



Arthur Ransome, author of children's sailing novels

protect the integrity of Ransome's name."

Mr Jones said Mr Roche's revelation had halted all talk of a marketing venture. The Ransome Society was launched in 1990 to "promote his works and diffuse his ideas, especially among children".

The range of Ransome admirers' interests is illustrated on the Internet. A thesis argues that the Swallows and Amazons novels are "a new form of narrative involving an ironic contextual interplay of visual and verbal motifs".

And a family note says: "We have all been re-reading Swallows and Amazons prior to our holiday in the Lake District — following in the tracks of children who really knew what high adventure was, and not a TV or video in sight anywhere."

### From Russia with luck

- Arthur Ransome, born 1884, son of a Leeds history professor, reported the aftermath of the Russian revolution for the Manchester Guardian from 1919-24.
- A friend of Lenin, he lived with and married Trotsky's secretary, Evgenia Shelapina.
- Guardian postings to Egypt and China made him a restive "he has some stupid notion of a personal career," wrote the editor.
- In 1929 he began writing Swallows and Amazons, based on his boyhood sailing and camping in the Lake District and on children he knew there as a young man.
- Early reaction was lukewarm. His third book, Peter Duck (1932), was the first of his 12 bestsellers. His last book was *Mainly About Fishing* (1959).
- He died in 1967. His stories have rarely been out of paperback, his executor says.

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### Children asked how boy, 3, came to drown in canal

Helen Carter

POLICE are questioning a group of children after the body of a three-year-old boy was pulled out of a canal near where he had been playing.

Attempts to resuscitate Aiden Watson failed after he fell into the Chesterfield Canal in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, 400 yards from his home.

The 6ft deep canal is enclosed by a wooden fence, but the boy is believed to have squeezed through a gap leading him to the water's edge. His blue and white scooter was found beside the canal.

It is hoped the children, who are aged four to 11, will be able to help police piece together how he came to drown.

A passer-by, roadsweeper David O'Shea, attempted to

revive the boy using first aid knowledge gleaned from television programmes.

Nottinghamshire police are appealing for shoppers at the nearby Priory Centre to come forward with information about Aiden's last moments.

A spokesman said: "We are concerned to find out how this little boy ended up in the canal."

Neighbours said the child was gone for only minutes before he was found.

Aiden's mother, Debbie Watson, who has three other children aged between six months and 10, was too upset to talk. Her sister Elaine Bradder said: "It's absolutely terrible. He had always played in this street and he would wander down to the canal area. We don't know what he was doing there on his own."

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Briton Chris Colyer with his pet llama, at the campsite and millhouse (right) that have ruined his family



PHOTOGRAPH: ALAIN MACHELON

## Village of stone crushes foreigners

**Jon Henley** on what happens to outsiders in the idyllic French hamlet of St Julia de Bec

IT LOOKS idyllic. A clintch of old stone houses on a hilltop half-way up a wild mountain valley; a prosperous and well-cared-for little place of some 70 souls, just over an hour's drive from the ancient south-western city of Narbonne.

But little French villages have mayors whose discretionary powers range wide. And in this little village, where one-fifth of the people voted for the anti-immigrant National Front in last month's regional elections, that can drive a family to ruin.

Chris Colyer, a former actor, moved to St Julia de Bec from Bristol eight years ago with his brother, sister and mother. They spent £200,000 buying a converted 18th-century millhouse, with a small 15-place campsite.

Tucked under the tower-

ing, beak-shaped outcrop of rock that gave the village its name, bordering a small stream, the Moulin du Roc was then a successful, fully licensed small holiday business to which Dutch and English summer visitors returned year after year. It is now closed and the Colyer family heavily in debt.

"They did everything according to the letter of the law, and more," said Nadine Honoret, a Frenchwoman who together with her partner, Bruno Prades, and some 25 other local people are fighting on the family's behalf.

"They've put their lives and all their money into this and they've been persecuted in a way that's hard to believe... and now they've been shut. It's shameful for France."

The village mayor, Henri Revert, closed the campsite on the grounds that it was

liable to flooding. No hydrological survey was carried out. Of 144 campsites in the department of Aude classified as at some risk from flooding, just three have been closed; they belong to the Colyers, a Dutch couple and an Irish family.

Mr Colyer voluntarily widened and deepened the stream through the site. On the orders of the mayor and the local prefect, he also installed a new kitchen in the restaurant, fitted a fire alarm system, hid toilets for handicapped visitors, rewired the entire site, installed a new waste filter system, added automatic showers and a foot bath to the swimming pool, constructed emergency exits, put fire extinguishers every 30 metres, and bought a full loudspeaker system.

The work cost the family about £400,000. Ms Honoret and Mr Prades, who pored

over the statute books, say the vast bulk of it was not required by any law.

Three years ago, a few days after he was elected for a six-year mayoral term on a Socialist ticket, Mr Revert paid a visit to the Moulin du Roc. "He told us that he really wasn't too keen on foreigners in his village," Mr Colyer said. "He told us we would soon be leaving. Before he finally

"This place is so corrupt it's like Corsica without the guns"

closed us down, a week after we'd been approved by all the relevant authorities, he and two gendarmes repeatedly came down here to tell our clients to leave. I've been called a gypsy and a drug-money launderer, and I've been taken to court three times." But Mr Colyer

is not the only one with problems.

A Swiss-French couple have been refused residence permits, and Julien Zarosinsky, a mild-mannered French national of Polish parents who retired to the village from Dunkirk, complains of constant bureaucratic harassment.

"The mayor is friends with the regional council, the regional council is friends with the prefect, the prefect is friends with the lawyers — they have it sewn up," Mr Zarosinsky said. "This place is so corrupt it's like Corsica without the guns."

At St Julia de Bec's immaculately-painted town hall, Mr Revert's secretary explained that he was too busy to discuss the case. "It's a society of functionaries," said Bruno Prades. "Little men, with little ideas. They're not heartless, but they don't like foreigners and they adore exercising their power, which is excessive. It's one of France's tragedies."

## Euro launch aftermath

# Row overshadows Kohl-Chirac talks

**Jon Henley in Avignon and Ian Traynor in Bonn**

DAYS after one of the most bruising rows in 40 years of Franco-German co-operation, President Jacques Chirac and Chancellor Helmut Kohl embraced warmly yesterday at the start of key talks that will attempt to mend fences and reassure their sceptical partners that the motor of European integration has not broken down.

The two leaders were relaxed and smiling as they shook hands before a large, flag-waving crowd outside the town hall in Avignon, the southern French town hosting the latest in a series of bilateral talks.

But while it is not officially on the agenda, last weekend's bitter trial of strength over the presidency of the European Central Bank will overshadow the two-day summit.

France has been criticised around Europe for forcing Germany into a compromise by which the bank's Dutch president, Wim Duisenberg, will step down halfway through his first term to make way for the Bank of France governor, Jean-Claude Trichet. But Paris was at pains to stress that little long-term damage had been done.

"I think we will see that there's not a cooling off of Franco-German relations," the French finance minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, said before the leaders met last night.

But he said: "If it helps heal wounds, we won't be so combative" in promoting French candidates for future European posts.

Mr Kohl left behind a domestic furor. In an unusual assault on the chancellor's European policies, the opposition Social Democrats and Greens — both as committed to the euro as Mr Kohl — yesterday abstained on a parliamentary vote on the weekend's Brussels summit.

Mr Kohl had to fight off opposition calls for a resolution deploring the worsening of relations between Bonn and Paris because of the row.

The third senior Bundesbank official in as many days heaped scorn on the compromise that would prevent Mr Duisenberg serving a full eight-year term. Raimund Jochemsen, a Bundesbank euro-sceptic, described the Brussels fudge as "an evil omen" that jeopardised the bank's independence.

The Franco-German relationship has been alluring since Mr Chirac came to power. Many observers believe the two leaders are so weakened at home that they cannot act together in Europe

if that entails making unpopular concessions.

Mr Chirac made no comment on the row yesterday beyond reiterating that it would have been "wrong" to allow the bank's president to be chosen by central bankers rather than politicians.

The two leaders spoke in private for just over an hour in the wedding hall of Avignon's 14th-century Papal Palace before dining together.

On the formal agenda were transatlantic relations; next month's European Union and Group of Eight summits in Birmingham; Russia; the Middle East; and Nato enlargement. The leaders will reconvene this morning and are expected to make a joint statement later in the day.

In Milan Gerhard Schröder, Mr Kohl's challenger in the general election in September, kept up the attack on the chancellor's handling of the euro debate. Mr Kohl's re-election strategy, as he campaigns as the defender of a strong euro, has been badly damaged by the fallout from Brussels.

Chancellor Kohl defends the 'fudge' PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL JUNG



## MEPs' revolt loses steam

**Martin Walker in Brussels**

THE European Parliament's brief revolt against the chaotic late-night summit compromise on the new European Central Bank began to fizzle out yesterday after heavy pressure on MEPs from national governments, including Britain.

"We are delighted that the euro is successfully launched," Pauline Green, the head of the European Parliament's Socialist group and Labour MEP for North London, said in Brussels.

"The president and vice-president of the Central Bank board have been nominated, even if not quite as we had wanted, and we should now look to the future to maximise the influence of this parliament on economic policy."

Only three days ago Ms Green led the parliament's attack on the "unacceptable shenanigans" of the summit, which accepted France's demand that Wim Duisenberg step down after four years.

European parliamentary

leaders condemned this as "a breach of the spirit of the Maastricht treaty", which stipulated an eight-year term for Europe's central banker to guarantee his independence.

"The more crucial question is whether the president of the Central Bank really feels independent," Christa Randzio-Plath, the German Social Democrat and head of the parliament's monetary affairs committee, said.

At the weekend Ms Randzio-Plath had outspokenly condemned the summit deal, saying: "Parliament will never stand for a fudge of a split term for the bank."

Now it seems ready to bow to the polite legal fiction that Mr Duisenberg has been nominated to an eight-year term, even if he has made a gentleman's agreement to step down after four years.

MEPs were reluctant to say how much pressure government had exerted, but said financial markets' favourable reaction to the euro launch had been important.

"I am not here as a Labour person but as Socialist group

leader. We are disappointed by what happened at the summit and think it was deeply unhelpful, and we think the Council should look again at the way they take these decisions," Ms Green said. "But we are delighted the markets gave the euro a good start."

The Socialist group of MEPs had gathered to prepare for the confirmation hearings of Mr Duisenberg and the rest of the bank board, which start today.

The hearings were planned as a defiant assertion of parliament's authority. But the focus now seems to be whether Mr Duisenberg can claim to be independent.

Ms Green and other senior parliamentary figures insisted the hearings would still be a "critical event". She said: "The vote of the parliament next week is open, and the outcome will depend on these hearings."

The parliament's finance committee will vote on the nominations on Monday evening, and the formal parliamentary vote will take place on Wednesday.

## Stars of reform escape graft inquiry net

**James Meek in Moscow**

ONCE Anatoly Sobchak was mayor of St Petersburg, a flag-carrier of Russia's democratic revolution, courted by the Prince of Wales and Ted Turner, the American broadcasting executive, he was allowed to go abroad on a business trip. His whereabouts are unknown.

Mr Sobchak, defeated in mayoral elections in St Pe-

tersburg in 1996, left abruptly last November after he was summoned to give evidence in court over a municipal scandal related to state flats.

After having a heart attack in his office, he was flown to Paris for tests. Last month he said he would not return until prosecutors accepted that they had treated him badly.

Another hero of democratic rallies in the early days of Boris Yeltsin's drive for power, Sergei Stankevich, is in Po-

land. The former Yeltsin aide is accused of receiving a bribe, but efforts to extradite him have been rebuffed.

A spokeswoman for Russia's prosecution service said they were still seeking Mr Stankevich's extradition. Mr Sobchak could not be extradited because he was sought as a witness. She refused to comment on the Sobchak case.

Mr Kohl faces up to 10 years in jail if he is convicted. The affair involved the state

property fund — the government privatisation agency — allegedly buying new flats and giving them to bureaucrats, including Mr Kohl, under fictitious bills of sale.

The case is part of a wider investigation which is likely to lead to charges against many privatisation officials — all of them close to Russia's original privatisation tsar, Anatoly Chubais, who has just been appointed head of the electricity monopoly.

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The Guardian Thursday May 7 1998

WORLD NEWS 7

# America's big bird is back



The bald eagle, robust symbol of the United States, is earmarked for removal at last from the endangered species list. The Clinton administration pronounced it and 28 other creatures officially in recovery, says Martin Kettle



**A**FTER living under the threat of extinction for more than 30 years, the national bird of the United States was granted an official reprieve yesterday, when the bald eagle and 28 other animal and plant species were earmarked for removal from America's list of endangered species.

The bald eagle inevitably took pride of place at the top of a list of recovering species likely to be taken off the endangered register in the coming two years, or downgraded to "threatened" status. Others on the reprieve list announced by the US interior secretary, Bruce Babbitt, ranged from the famous — such as the grey wolf, the peregrine falcon and the white-tailed deer — to the not-so-famous, such as Robbin's cinquefoil, the running buck, the bald eagle, and the lowly Missouri bladder-pod, a rare Midwestern plant.

The proposed "de-listings" are being promoted by Mr Babbitt to counter a growing feeling among Republicans in the federal and state legislatures that endangered-species laws do not work and are steadily encroaching on the livelihoods of farmers.

The recovery of the American bald eagle population follows 31 years on the critical list. Its numbers had been reduced to fewer than 500 by the use of DDT and other pesticides that affected its reproductive system. There are now more than 5,000 nesting pairs in the continental US (excluding Alaska, where it remains plentiful), and the numbers are growing at 10 per cent a year.

Mr Babbitt marked the reprieve by saying an official visit to a happy couple of nesting eagles and their three-week-old chick on an island in the Connecticut River. The interior secretary told the assembled reporters and birds that yesterday's list was a vindication of the legislation under which the bald eagle and more than a thousand other threatened species are protected. "We can now finally prove one thing conclusively. The Endangered Species Act works. Period," Mr Babbitt said.

More than 1,130 animals and plants are listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered or threatened, making it illegal to kill or harm them. In recent times, the list has been growing by an average of 88 new species each year. Until now, few species have ever been removed from the list. When they were, it was usually because they finally became extinct, as did the Tasmanian devil in California and Florida's dusky seaside sparrow. As America's national bird, the bald eagle has been the centre of attention in the argument about the best way of protecting endangered species. The eagle, which is not really bald but looks like it because of the white feathers on its head, is found only in North America and has been protected in various forms since 1940. It features on the national coat of arms and is depicted on all sorts of everyday items, including the dollar bill and the 25-cent coin.

"Some proposed de-listings — like the grey wolf, the peregrine falcon or the American bald eagle we honour today — embody symbolism and capture the public imagination," Mr Babbitt said yesterday. But he added that it was important not to forget those that were "less charismatic but just as ecologically essential".

"I don't know what a Missouri bladder-pod is but I'm pleased that it's ready for consideration," Mr Babbitt said.

## Defiant Netanyahu faces hard choice

Our Correspondent in Jerusalem

**I**SRAEL'S prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, yesterday began cabinet discussions on an ultimatum from Washington which analysts say could force him to choose between damaging relations with the United States and risking a right-wing parliamentary revolt and possibly early elections.



The body of a Jewish seminary student is taken away after he was stabbed in old Jerusalem

## ANC bomb chief proud of 'brave and disciplined men'

David Bowersford in Johannesburg

**T**HE master-bomber in the African National Congress's liberation war came from the shadows yesterday to defend his role in the deadly anti-apartheid struggle. Aboobaker Ismail, the ANC's head of "special operations", appeared before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, to ask for amnesty for a string of bomb and rocket attacks, including the car bomb attack on the South African Air Force headquarters in Church Street, Pretoria, in 1983 which left 19 dead and more than 200 injured.

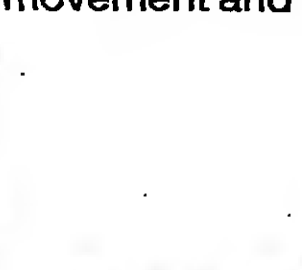
In one of the most poignant moments of the commission hearings, Mr Ismail found himself face to face with a man who was blinded in the Church Street explosion. "This is very difficult. I am sorry about what happened to you," he told the former air force officer Neville Clarence. "I do not hold any grudges," he replied.

Mr Ismail, looking dapper in a grey suit, was behind the blowing up of a nuclear reactor outside Cape Town, a torrid rocket attack on South Africa's main military base outside Pretoria and the near-destruction of three government oil refineries.

He told the commission that his commitment to the liberation struggle stemmed from when he was seven years old. He had returned home from school clutching a flag and a medal which had been presented to the schoolchildren to mark Republic Day — when South Africa left the Commonwealth. "When we got home my father took these off us and threw them into the fire. He called us all together and told us that we were never to wave these flags for a racist country, to eat the sweets ... This was the start of my political consciousness."

## New leader emerges from the flames

**John Aglionby in Jakarta on** Amien Rais, the popular and fiery politics lecturer who appears capable of uniting Indonesians behind the reform movement and ousting Suharto



**T**EN months of economic meltdown have done more for Indonesia's opposition than 30 years of prosperity ever did. For it has exposed President Suharto's edifice of national unity to be little more than wishful thinking.

Since March, Indonesians from all walks of life have joined university students in demonstrations demanding political reform and the resignation of Mr Suharto, the 76-year-old peasant-turned-dictator. But what has stopped the reform movement from taking off and broadening its appeal to the country's burgeoning middle class is the lack of a leader for the people to unite behind. Mr Suharto has removed all the opponents to his 32-year regime from the House of Representatives, the ineffectual legislature that gives legitimacy to his rule, and has imprisoned or ostracised anyone who has formed political parties outside the confines of the approved system.



A student (above left) in Jakarta destroys a picture of Suharto

Chicago, Mr Rais not only has policies for political reform, but he has expounded them. Heading his priorities is the repeal of Indonesia's political laws that ban campaigning, the formation of new political parties, and political activities in rural areas.

"Indonesia is like a patient that's still in a coma ... we don't know when it is going to wake up," he said at the time. Then he was prepared to give the patient six months to recover under its current doctor, namely Mr Suharto. But this week, while in Europe after a trip to Washington to testify before Congress, he said the people's patience had all but evaporated and that Mr Suharto should step down. "His statements about wanting reform are only cosmetic. They are not serious," Mr Rais said.

He is opinionated in his position and thinks he is right and the people are wrong. I hope he will now be wise enough to understand the objective situation and not be deceived by his blind ambition any longer ... and step down voluntarily."







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## The bitter IMF legacy

It worsens Asia's plight

IN THE 10 months since the Asian economic crisis first burst on us, Asian governments have so far managed to contain the anger of their peoples. The crisis itself, and the measures which the West and the world financial institutions insisted were necessary to deal with it, have brought bankruptcy, unemployment, and privatisation on a large scale to societies which only a little time ago thought they had joined the ranks of the world's winners. Now, with the first deaths in Indonesian rioting, which had until now kept this side of serious street violence, and with the confrontation between government and labour in South Korea, a period of increased danger has obviously begun. In nearly every country affected by the crisis, currencies have fallen over the last few days. It is ironic that this should coincide with the G8 meeting in Birmingham. That conference could find itself agonising over what has gone wrong with the policies put into effect in east and south-east Asia, and not, as delegates may have hoped, discussing how successful those policies, in spite of the "inevitable social difficulties", were proving to be.

Indonesia and South Korea are at the opposite ends of the spectrum of crisis. South Korea has a basically sound economy crippled by the extraordinarily high interest rates that the IMF has imposed, rates which would be unimaginable in the West and which are sending to the wall many enterprises that are efficient by anybody's standards. Indonesia has a distorted econ-

omy characterised by serious corruption at the top and by heavy subsidies — welfare or social bribes according to the point of view — at the bottom. The IMF has undermined that system by insisting that it would only release loans to Jakarta if the subsidies were cut. They were duly slashed, and the riots have duly followed. It is difficult to know what they expect at the Fund when they recommend measures so potentially explosive. Surely it must occur to these bankers and financial experts that riots and political instability are not the best ways to restore confidence, increase economic activity, and restore the flow of investment? Yet while lip service is paid to "social protection", what actually happens is that, as in Indonesia two days ago, the lives of millions of ordinary people, most of them already struggling against the odds, are made worse as a result. The suspicion is that, as in Indonesia two days ago, the IMF is too doctrinaire, but that it is driven by the interests of Western banks determined that whoever pays for the mistakes which led to the Asian crisis, it will not be them, and influenced by the attitudes of Western governments who want to pile all the blame on the Asians. The irresponsible Gadarene rush of Western and Japanese investment money was as much to blame for the Asian bust as the behaviour of local financiers and businessmen.

Indonesia's new troubles mean that this was hardly an appropriate moment for Gordon Brown to be lecturing the Indonesian leader. Suharto is an old authoritarian leader whose time is, and ought to be, running out, and the need for a political new start in Indonesia is obvious. But how that transition happens and how much suffering it brings in its wake ought not to be dictated by narrow considerations of economic governance. Suharto's resistance

to IMF measures was clearly based on his feeling that they might well bring his regime down. Now his resistance has been largely overcome, the measures are in place, and we await the results. For those inclined to say let Suharto go hang, it is to be noted that, in South Korea, IMF measures are constricting the possibilities of the best and most democratic leader that country has had in a generation. It is hard to resist the conclusion that, if IMF measures in Asia represent a questionable kind of economics, they represent an even more questionable kind of politics.

## Invisible election

Why? There's no opposition

TODAY is polling day — but you'd hardly know it. There is to be a referendum in London creating the largest elected post in the country — a mayor for the capital — which could become a model for city government throughout Britain. Londoners have the chance not only to make a profound constitutional change, but also to kick out (or rehire) the people who run all 32 of the capital's boroughs. At the same time there are contests in one third of the councils of England and Wales with control of some of our biggest cities, from Liverpool to Carlisle, up for grabs. What is the public response to this explosion of democracy? Apathy — on a grand scale.

Canvassers, leaflets and all the usual paraphernalia of an election campaign seem to be missing in action. In London, where one might have expected the novelty value of a referendum to have stirred interest, today's big decision has barely reached the radar screen. There's been almost nothing on television, some radio

ads on a couple of music stations and a few posters — the only decent ones paid for by the Union trade union rather than the Government. The Yes campaign is invisible. The pressure group London First reports "record apathy soaring to new heights of indifference."

It's an odd outcome this, especially in a city whose inhabitants have told pollsters for more than a decade they want a strategic authority to replace the Greater London Council — abolished with a stroke of Margaret Thatcher's pen in 1986.

The likeliest culprit for the apathy outbreak is the sheer scale of the consensus aroused by today's proposal. Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Greens all back the Labour plans for London. Unlike Scotland, where there was a similar degree of majority support for devolution, there is no No campaign in London. The result is that today's vote has come to seem a non-event.

The obvious outcome could be a pitifully low turnout. That would be dangerous, leaving a new mayor vulnerable to future abolitionist charges that he enjoyed no real mandate. The irony would be cruel indeed: the very degree of support for today's change ultimately undermining it. Londoners should make sure that doesn't happen. They should grab the opportunity they have demanded so long. They should vote — and vote Yes.

## Ban tobacco ads

Euro-MPs must take the lead

YESTERDAY wasn't Stop Smoking Day — but you could be forgiven for thinking it was as a result of three unrelated events. First, a petition urging Euro MPs to ban tobacco advertising and sponsorship next

week was signed by 1,600 distinguished clinicians, including 10 Nobel Prize winners. In a joint letter to MEPs yesterday they claim that there is now convincing research to show that advertising encourages young people to start smoking and others to continue the habit and therefore should be banned. Second, a coincidental article in Nature reports findings by the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, suggesting that smoking depresses the brain's ability to experience pleasure, leading to withdrawal symptoms similar to those suffered by people deprived of amphetamines, cocaine, heroin and alcohol. Third, in what could be a landmark case, a 60-year-old nurse is suing a private nursing home claiming she developed asthma as a result of passive inhalation in what was dubbed "smokers' corner" at the home. This case, the first of its kind in England or Wales, could have serious implications for employment laws.

There is a connecting thread between these events. However much people, knowing the serious damage it inflicts on themselves, assert their libertarian right to smoke, they don't have the right to inflict damage on others. A ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship is long overdue for this reason alone. And especially so in view of the recent disturbing statistics showing a rise in the number of women smoking for the first time in a quarter of a century with a 5 per cent increase among the 16-19 age group. A similar trend is apparent in the rest of Europe.

Next week's vote in the European Parliament for a ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship is thus an important stage in the battle to get a rational policy balancing the freedom of mature people to smoke with the freedom of others to avoid the terrible consequences.

## Letters to the Editor

### Soccer, skuas and cyclists

**BENJAMIN Linsley** (Letters, May 6) asks why the free festival in Finsbury Park was allowed to take place on the same day as the Premier League match at Arsenal. Surely the real question is why the football match was allowed? The May Day festival is a regular annual event which had been planned for months. The Arsenal game was scheduled on that particular Sunday purely for the convenience of Sky TV. Peter Compton, London.

In response to Stephen Moss's article on Shetland (May 2), the best way to see the birds of Shetland is to take a boat round the foot of the cliffs and look up to see them crammed on the rock ledges like talking books in an immense library. To avoid injury by aggressive skuas, push a stick down between anorak and sweater so that its top protrudes above your head — they will attack the stick instead. Sheila Smith, Nottingham.

FORE Street, Hertford, can beat Bradford's new cycle track for brevity (Letters, May 6). At the start of the few yards of track there is a paving slab with the cycle track sign carved into it. This is frequently hidden by parked vehicles, rendering the whole thing even more useless. Margaret Barnes, Hertford, Herts.

**BRIGHTON** has not only several very short cycle lanes but also several strange ones, like the dog-legged lane ending in a metal bollard half way along Queens Road. Alan (Fred) Pipes, Brighton.

**BRIGHTON** might have the nation's shortest cycle lane but Surrey hereby lays claim to the narrowest. In Cragdock Avenue, Ashford, the powerline cycle track which at one point is only 25 inches wide. Can anyone better that? Bob Marlow, Ashford, Surrey.

**A** N apt, I'm sure, number update (Letters, May 2) seen on a black E Type Jag with black tinted windows. EGO 1. Steve Morris, Bristol.

## Intimacies: a sister's tale

**D**OES being famous mean you can devalue those around you and rewrite history for even more personal gain? In the article written about my brother, Hanif Kureishi, in Weekend Guardian (All for love, May 2), he has sold his family down the line. The article gives a false impression of our family life. We lived in a pleasant semi, down a quiet cul-de-sac in Bromley. My grandfather was not a "cloth cap working class" person. He owned three shops locally and he was a kind, warm man.

My mother never worked in a shoe factory (there are no shoe factories in Bromley). She had several part-time jobs in the beginning, one of which was working for about three months in Russell and Bromley to help pay my school fees, as I went to a ballet school. My mother, who left school, went to art college until the age of 21: she is an intelligent, articulate and not uncultured person. I feel deeply saddened that it should come to this because I have felt so proud of Hanif and his achievements and have followed his successes closely. I have felt and still do that, after our painful childhood where we both experienced a great deal of racism, Hanif deserved his success and I am thrilled that he has made it in a white world. As regards my father and Hanif, I won't tell you everything, but I will focus on the lies in this article. Obviously, your journalist has got the idea from Hanif that our father was a special kind of man, and he was that, but he certainly wasn't "particularly devoted to him". He loved us all equally.

Furthermore, my father was angry when The Buddha Of Suburbia came out, as he felt that Hanif had robbed him of his dignity and he didn't speak to Hanif for about a year. The description of my

father at the end of his life as a "bitter man" is grossly and cruelly exaggerated. My father led a full and active life. He had his grandson, whom he adored, he had me close by and we used to talk for hours in the garden about writing and life. He and my mother went on holidays, went out for meals and generally enjoyed themselves as best they could, despite his father's illness. It is a shame that I have had to write this letter to you, but if our life has to become public knowledge at least get it right.

The memory of my father I hold very dear and I will do anything in my power to ensure that it is not fabricated for the entertainment of the public or for Hanif's profit, and that the feelings of my mother and I are not hurt more than they have been already. And, by the way, my name is Yasmin, not "Jasmine". Yasmin Kureishi, Kent.

**UPON MY** return from the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York, I read the letter from Robert Hepp, president of the Justus Liebig University, (Online, April 30) attacking your article on "thermodynamic refrigeration". It is a pity that the Institute has not yet accepted that HFCs are on their way out. By 2010, HFCs will have an average global warming factor 2,274 times greater than carbon dioxide. To meet the commitments laid down in the Kyoto Protocol, we need to change to the alternative forms of refrigeration.

With only 3 per cent of the UK refrigeration industry having signed an agreement to reduce the usage of HFCs, the Institute should take the opportunity to lead the industry in making its crucial contribution in reducing not only our ozone-depleting chemicals but also our emissions of greenhouse gases. John Gummer MP, Secretary of State for the Environment (1993-1997), House of Commons.

**THE** university merit table is dangerously misleading (Oxford slips in university merit league, April 30). Such tables rank universities on arbitrary criteria and then accord to each of these criteria what can only be randomly determined values to create an overall league. It is important to know whether a university has a good record of getting students into jobs or spending on libraries, but comparing one with another has about as much meaning as a league table of drink prices. Such tables perpetuate the myth of "best" and "worst" universities, pressuring students to opt for universities unsuited to their needs. Sensible students will consider a range of issues, including academic reputation, location, accommodation, welfare facilities and social life. Incidentally, Durham University serves the cheapest pint in the country. Ben Rich, FUSU Guide to Which University, Maidenhead, Berks.

## Little merit

**AS** truth is such a complex, conflicting territory, the "grand narratives" which endeavoured to map out the whole of it — religion, science and the Marxism which grew out of it — came a cropper. This also meant that at the same time, Lyotard held out for progressive thought, one which had very adaptive mapping skills and did not dismiss other maps out of hand. A Woolf, London.

**IN HIS** diatribe against post-modernism, Simon Young, conflating moral with cultural relativism, forecloses the possibility of learning anything from the way other people have thought about their world, and mistakenly sees biological evolution as a state of progress towards some preordained goal. Much in what Lyotard and his ilk say may be questionable, but at least they have been willing to question why particular kinds of thought assert their superiority. Charlie Smadja, Guildford, Surrey.



## Cartographer of relative truths

**SIMON** Young's letter (May 2) and the obituary of Jean-François Lyotard (April 27) missed the point. He was not a relativist who attacked the notion of truth, but rather adapted Wittgenstein's "language games" theory to the argument that all ideologies and theories are territorial maps of truth, often coming into conflict, thereby precluding the possibility of simplistic connective communication. As truth is such a complex, conflicting territory, the "grand narratives" which endeavoured to map out the whole of it — religion, science and the Marxism which grew out of it — came a cropper. This also meant that at the same time, Lyotard held out for progressive thought, one which had very adaptive map-

## Stage right

**INTERVIEWS** with the playwright Howard Barker (Honor without profit, G2, May 6) tend to emphasise those companies which have a bad record in presenting his work. The Royal Shakespeare Company has presented seven of Barker's plays (as many as Ben Jonson, and exceeded only by Edward Bond, Richard Nelson, Harold Pinter and Shakespeare himself), and he is the only playwright apart from Shakespeare to have had a season devoted to his work. It is good, too, that theatres such as the Birmingham Rep and the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, are giving their main houses to Barker's Ursula. David Edgar, University of Birmingham.

## Charity counts

**POLLY** TOYNBEE has hit the nail straight on the head (So you want to give to charity? May 4). A "Charity Index" would benefit the public. The Index would be a number from 0 to 100, indicating the percentage of a charity's annual budget that goes on administration. I believe that some large charities would be hitting the low 70s. The Charity Index figure could be displayed in the front windows of high-street resale shops and on the endless collection tins that are ever present on market day. Would it not be harder for these charities to recruit an army of volunteers, if their index figures were anything over 10? Who would drop their small change in to a tin which had an index of more than 50?

A place does exist in our society for charity, but at a local or direct level. My best advice is to avoid any organisation that has a flash letterhead and logo, since one knows that a substantial amount of collected funds went into creating them and that a far larger amount probably goes toward the administrators' salaries. Name and address supplied.

We do not publish letters where only a name and address or a truncated address is supplied; please include a full postal address and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used. The Country Diary is on Page 10.

## Whitehall's mercenary approach to Africa

**LABOUR** ministers would like us to believe that they had no knowledge that a mercenary company was shipping arms to bolster Nigeria's war in Sierra Leone (Come clean, arms row boss tells Whitehall, May 4). Yet no less a person than the Prime Minister invited President Kabbah of Sierra Leone to the Commonwealth conference and repeatedly stated the Labour government's commitment to restoring democracy in his country. How was this going to be done except through the intervention of Nigeria, and the shipment of weapons to the anti-military forces in Sierra Leone?

Mercenaries have been involved in Sierra Leone's turbulent politics since the early 1990s: first Executive Outcomes and now Sandline. The Tory government looked the other way while mercenaries were recruited by Executive Outcomes; now the Labour government does the same while another mercenary

group exports weapons to Sierra Leone. This issue strikes at the heart of the Labour government's so-called "ethical foreign policy". What kind of government will Sierra Leone get if it depends on mercenaries and another dictator (the Nigerian one) to restore Kabbah to power. And at what cost? Sierra Leone's diamonds are at the heart of such sordid deals. Can the Labour government be sincere in its claims that it is interested in democracy in Nigeria when it encourages a dictator to overthrow other dictators? Could this have happened without some form of co-operation between the Foreign Office and the Nigerian government? Direct answers on Britain's role in the use of mercenaries in Africa will be most welcome. Please stop these mercenaries from invading Africa. It is unethical, sordid and destabilising. Zaya Yeebo, Editor, The African, London.

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## Those of us who've been raped find sexual violence on TV a turn-off

**F**OR once I agree with Julie Burchill (Telly most horrid, May 2). Let's stick "Atrocity" in the dictionary, because there's a lot of it about and it is so respectable: millions watch it as they smugly down at a safe distance. There's no harm in it, after all. Just enough to get the adrenalin pumping before Ovaltime. Maybe it is a need to meet in virtual reality what we fear most, or maybe it hits the fear button and gives people a buzz, but I imagine anyone who has suffered the reality of any of the horrors now up as entertainment switches off. If something brings insight

into the darkness around us that's fine, but Midsummer Murders and Sordid's Bride, let's face it, it's bums on seats. T Brennan, Plymouth.

**AS A VICTIM** of rape and incestuous child abuse, I avoid programmes that contain scenes of this nature. What I object to most strongly are trailers that show excerpts from these scenes, the most recent one being A Respectable Trade. To be taken unaware is very distressing. Each time, I relive the whole experience — not deliberately, it just happens. We know that sex sells and so does violence, but they do

not need to go together? We are bombarded by them. Any scenes and images: is it any surprise that rape is regarded as normal? I was 14 years old before I realised that there are women who have never been raped. There must be something very wrong with a society that shies away from broadcasting everyday language ("obscene language") but which is happy to broadcast an act which is the worst nightmare of most women. Believe me, I would rather have been murdered than raped. I watched the Sordid's Bride and was devastated by the rape scene. Name and address supplied.

**AS A** victim of rape, I strongly disagree with Julie Burchill's statement that "most of us, male and female, would rather be raped than murdered". I would not wish the experience on anyone, neither would I say I would go through the experience again rather than be murdered. At least murder victims don't have to live with the painful memories. Also, it is deemed more acceptable in the "public" sphere to talk about murder — an investigation has to take place, someone has to be arrested and charged, a court case happens. In the case of my rape, I was advised by the police not to take the

case forward because it would have been a waste against the rapist's and the court could have assumed that I had asked for it. I often have painful memories that I have not been able to talk about because rape is a controversial subject concerning an act — sex — that to most people in a loving and caring relationship is a pleasurable activity. It is not evident whether the author has experienced the horrors of rape, but I would ask that in future Ms Burchill consider the sensitivities of potential readers before embarking on another subject like this. Name and address supplied.

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Professor Ralph Raphael

# Unlocking the nature of compounds

**P**ROFESSOR Ralph Raphael, who has died aged 89, was the former head of the department of organic and inorganic chemistry at Cambridge University, and widely regarded as one of the best departmental organisers in academic research. He was also a great organic chemist, a natural humorist and teacher, a master of empirical logic and revered by his research students. He was active as professor emeritus until his death.

His major focus of scientific interest, natural products such as pheromones and, in particular, the large group of compounds called the acetylenes, emerged during his post-graduate research at Imperial College in London during the second world war. Having gained a

brilliant first he carried on for his doctorate under Ewart Jones, then reader in organic chemistry at London University. One of Raphael's earliest research papers, published jointly with Jones in 1943 and concerned with routes to the synthesis of vitamin A, reveals the meticulous analytical techniques and the interest in acetylene compounds which were later to be hallmarks of his life's work.

In the year this paper was published, armed with a two-year war-time doctorate and still only 22, Raphael joined the pharmaceutical company May and Baker as head of the chemotherapeutic research unit. The unit was working on the synthesis of penicillin, but Raphael was never fully at home in a commercial laboratory and in 1946 he ac-

cepted, with some enthusiasm, the offer of an ICI research fellowship at Imperial College. Warmed by a friendship with the gentle and brilliant war-time refugee acetylene chemist Franz Soodheimer, the organic chemistry of natural products became his life.

The fellowship shaped his life in several ways, for while at Imperial Ralph met and married Prudence Giffkin — who became his companion throughout his career — and published such original and valuable research during 1947-1948 that, a year later, he was awarded the Meldola Medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry. While deeply engaged amid an array of learned journals, Raphael was so rapid that he knocked politely on each new door of his career in case his



Such childcare was revolutionary at that time, but Raphael was the stuff of legends. It was said that his promotion was so rapid that he knocked politely on each new door of his career in case his

**Raphael's earliest research reveals the meticulous analytical techniques and interest in acetylene compounds which became hallmarks of his life's work**

predecessor happened to be still in situ. By way of a lectureship at Glasgow — where he demonstrated that histamine can be synthesised from acetylenes — he leapt in 1954 into the chair of organic

chemistry at Queen's, Belfast.

At this time Queen's had a tradition of academic japes but Raphael invented an academically dangerous genre of his own. Within it a lecture would begin with valid if difficult chemistry and then very slowly, perhaps imperceptibly to most of his audience, drift into the unlikely and thence to the wholly ludicrous.

In 1957 he returned to Glasgow as Regius Professor of Chemistry, a post he held for 15 highly productive years. During that time he contributed a new route for the synthesis of "queen bee substance" — the pheromone which determines worker bees' development — and investigated the structure and synthesis of a wide range of naturally occurring com-

pounds, particularly those relating in some way to growth control or plant protection.

Among his many discoveries is chrysanthemic acid — derived, as it sounds, from the everyday chrysanthemum — which possesses insect-repellent and killing capabilities similar to the pyrethroids. For the wide-ranging investigations and discoveries he had already made he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1962; at that time he was also a member of the Science Research Council's chemistry committee and vice-president of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

In 1973 he was invited to Cambridge and the most prestigious post of professor of organic chemistry and head of the inorganic and or-

ganic chemistry department. Under Raphael's humane, practical guidance the Cambridge departments flourished and his own research burgeoned, focusing, among many things, on the systematic compounds which control seed germination and which could be of great value to agriculture. He retired in 1988.

Raphael was an insider and a private man, barely known to the public. That freedom enabled him to devote himself to his family, to music and to bridge. He is survived by his wife Prudence and their two children.

Anthony Tucker

Ralph Alexander Raphael, chemist, born January 1, 1907; April 30, 1998

Syd Lawrence

## In the mood for Miller

**A**S THE giants of jazz and popular music pass on, their achievements survive even beyond the recordings they left behind. Syd Lawrence, who has died aged 74, took up Glenn Miller's music as a profession some 30 years ago and from then on the Lawrence orchestra played to large and enthusiastic audiences and continued to push the Miller sound. In the process, leader and band somehow became embedded in British culture — when the Gloucestershire cricket team, which had already converted wicket-keeper Robert Russell into Jack, unearthed a promising fast bowler called David Lawrence, the only nickname possible for him was Syd.

Lawrence, the bandleader, was born at Shotton, near Chester, and was associated for much of his career with North-west England. His father, who worked in a steel mill, played drums in his spare time and led a band that gigged around Chester. Syd's first instrument was the violin. Aged 12, he took up the cornet and later followed his father by combining a job at the mill with a part-time musical career.

By now a professional musician, he toured with ENSA in 1941 and then joined the RAF, finding a niche in the Middle East Command Dance Orchestra led by clarinetist Ronnie Austin. After the war, he returned for a short time to Chester before leaving to join Teddy Foster, the first of

his many "name" leaders whose bands were featured in dance halls and on the radio. Apart from a stint playing on an ocean liner and a few gigs back home, Lawrence continued to hold jobs in the trumpet sections of well-known orchestras led by the likes of Ken Mackintosh, Cyril Stapleton (twice), Gerald and Sydney Lipton.

In the mid-1950s, again back in Cheshire, he worked part-time as a salesman before joining what became the BBC Northern Dance Orchestra, Manchester, which had all the alternative to London as a centre for musicians and the NDO, under its director Alvin Ainsworth, had a large following in the area as well as over the air. Lawrence stayed for many years but, even as adapted for the band, the music that became popular in the 1960s was not to his taste.

He began to organise some of the best musicians in and around Manchester for gigs based on his own transcriptions of Glenn Miller, including passages for a vocal quartet based on the original Modernaires. Miller had been dead for more than 20 years, and already there were several American bands in varying degrees devoted to his music. Only one of them was authorised by the Miller estate, with the access to original scores that went with it, so the rest presumably had to transcribe from records. For this arduous task, Lawrence had technical skill plus the



Syd Lawrence... maintaining the big band tradition

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID REIDFERN

necessary qualities of perseverance, patience and a good ear, and he soon built an enormous library of arrangements, not just of Miller tunes but also a handful drawn from Les Brown, Woody Herman, Charlie Barnet and others.

The music caught on and, by 1970, he was leading the band full time and also appearing regularly with it on television as part of the Les Dawson show *Sz Les*. A secret of his commercial success, during a period when big bands were regarded as expensive luxuries, was that he "took sides" against his own music. He was not a jazz audience hoping for feats of improvisation,

nor one expecting modern-day pop converted to swing — lamb dressed as mutton. They were after the best tunes and the catchiest arrangements of the dance-band era. Anything from a later date would have to approximate in style and appeal: for instance, Lawrence's version of *Li'l Darlin'*, Count Basie's dreamy classic from the 1950s, with the leader himself noodling expertly through the Wendell Culley muted trumpet spot.

From this point until a couple of years before his death Lawrence toured regularly, playing concerts and making more than 20 albums. Among the musicians who passed through were sax-

ophonists Ronnie Chamberlain and Gary Cox and two of Britain's top big-band drummers, Ronnie Verrell and Kenny Clark.

In 1994, Lawrence suffered an aneurysm and headed over conducting chores to trombonist/musical director Christopher Dean. But he still looked after the affairs of the band, which will no doubt continue long into the future, just as he helped sustain the music of the past.

He is survived by his wife Catherine, his son and daughter and two grandchildren.

Ron Atkins

Syd Lawrence, bandleader, born June 26, 1923; died May 5, 1998

Gene Raymond

## A star in the shadows

**I**T WAS the fate of the actor Gene Raymond, who has died aged 89, to be remembered for having been married to the late Jeanette MacDonald, and for being the nominal but eclipsed star of *Flying Down to Rio* (1933), which introduced Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers as a screen team.

Although the wavy-haired Raymond, who was good looking in a rather anemic way, lent his amiable and lightweight presence to dozens of movies in the 1930s, he was generally outshone by co-stars in his better films. In *Red Dust* (1932), he played the pallid engineer husband of Mary Astor, oblivious to the fact that his wife is quite willing to swap him for rubber planter Clark Gable; and in *Sadie McCane* (1934), both Joan Crawford and Edward Arnold outshone Raymond, despite his getting the chance to pleasantly croon the theme song *All I do is dream of you*.

Yet Raymond was excellent in one of Hollywood's most curious films, the expressionistic *Zoo in Budapest* (1932), in which he was a wild, animal-loving young man, who lives and works in a zoo. Perhaps if he had had further opportunities to play more off-beat characters, he would not have resided so much in the shadows of others.

Born Raymond Gulgo in New York, he attended New York's Professional Children's School, and was on stage from the age of five, making his Broadway debut in his teens. His (and the older Humphrey Bogart's) first big success came in *Crazy Strangers*, which ran for two years from 1932.

When he got to Hollywood in 1931 he changed his name to Gene Raymond, and became a leading man opposite Sylvia Sydney in *Ladies of the Big House* (1931) and in *Behind My Back* (1931). Betty Davis in *Ex-Lady* (1932), Fay Wray in *Anne Corcoran's Profession* (1933) and Carole Lomb-

ard in *Brief Moment* (1933), playing weaker characters than the women.

He was both witty and charming in *Flying Down to Rio*, in which he portrayed an aviator cum-songwriter who flies the lovely Dolores Del Rio to Rio in a two-seater, but pretends to have engine trouble and lands on an island to be alone with her. Coincidentally, Raymond was a B-17 bomber pilot in the second world war, and flew jets into South Vietnam in 1967 for the Air Force Reserve, winning the Legion of Merit.

In 1937 he married Jeanette MacDonald, who was at her height as the distaff side of one of the most popular musical partnerships in motion picture history. Her trilly soprano blended well with Nelson Eddy's stolid baritone in eight lavish sentimental operettas. But MacDonald's partnership with Gene Raymond was even more durable, lasting 28 years until her death in 1965.

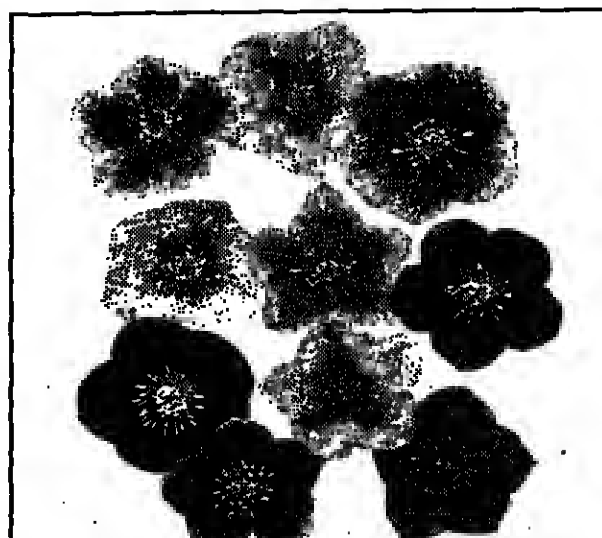
Husband and wife only co-starred once, in the third version of the first world war weepie *Smilin' Through* (1941), directed by Frank Bor-



Screen sweethearts... real life partners Gene Raymond and Jeanette MacDonald in *Smilin' Through*

Ronald Bergan

Gene Raymond, film actor, born August 13, 1908; died May 3, 1998



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### Letters

**Ian Birchall writes:** The importance of the work on Algeria of the French philosopher Jean-François Lyotard (*Obituary*, April 27) was not simply that he "took sides" against his own country but that his analysis of the Algerian revolutionary process broke with the "Third Worldism" prevalent on the French left, which despised of the French working class and equated national liberation with socialism. The distinctive feature of *Socialisme ou barbarie* was not, as your obituar-

ist thinks, its interest in psychoanalysis. The preoccupation of *Socialisme ou barbarie* throughout the 1950s was with shop-floor workers' experience and the potential for new forms of workers' democracy — notably the 1956 Hungarian Revolution's workers' councils. Its "distinctive feature" was the rejection of the idea that the states of the Stalinist bloc represented any kind of socialism, and the insistence on the essential similarity of the regimes, east and west.

**David Watson writes:** Last year, my school, where I am a 13-year-old pupil, set me a homework enquiry, *Faith in Action* about a famous Christian. So I wrote to Trevor Huddleston (*Obituary*, April 21) who sent such a kind and friendly letter back, and also copies of *Naught for your Comfort* and *Return to South Africa*. He said that he was honoured to be chosen. The honour was all mine, as I read the books and found that his life was truly faith in action.

**Chris Birch writes:** During the late 1970s when Denis Howell (*Obituary*, April 20) was an environment minister, I was editor of *Municipal Engineer* and was sometimes summoned to Howell's office for press briefings. He had a caustic tongue with which he lashed his erring civil servants. After one lashing and Howell's subsequent apology, I said: "My day would not be complete, Minister, without a bollocking from you."

### Birthdays

Scobie Breasley, jockey, 83; Teresa Brewer, actress and singer, 67; Lord Briggs, historian, 77; Peter Carey, author, 55; Tim Collins, Conservative MP, 34; Prof Alan Cathcart, master, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, 66; Murray Easton, chief executive, Rosyth Naval Dockyard, 47; Mik Flood, former director, ICA, 49; Sir James Gowans, medical researcher, 74; Robin Hanbury-Tenison, explorer and author, 62; David Hatch, chairman, National Consumer Council, 82; Anya Hindmarch, designer, 30; Sir Michael Hopkins, architect, 83; David Leach, potter, 87; Colin MacDonald, Labour MP, 65; Sir Neil Macfarlane, chairman, Securicor, 62; David Marshall, Labour MP, 57; Dr Tony O'Reilly, newspaper magnate, chairman H J Heinz, former Ireland rugby footballer, 63; Richard O'Sullivan, actor, 54; Rith Praver Jhabvala, author, 71; Michael Rosen, poet and critic, 52; Lynn Saville, photographer, 46; Elizabeth Soderstrom, soprano, 71; Clive Soley, Labour MP, 59; David Tomlinson, actor, 81.

### Death Notices

KELLY, Amendment to yesterday's obituary. Service at Grove Crematorium is now 3pm and not 11am.

### In Memoriam

BROOKS, Laura Matilda, in loving memory of Laura Matilda Brooks, 7 May 1972-17 November 1995. At peace. D.M.

### Birthdays

BERNETT, Nicholas, chief executive, Association of Consulting Engineers and former Conservative M.P. and minister, 48.

### Engagements

COHENYOUNG, Miss S.I. & Mr. D.E. The wedding will be celebrated on Sunday, 10 May at 11.30am at St. Paul's Church, London. The bride is the daughter of Mr and Mrs L.R. Cohen.

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صلى الله عليه وسلم



# Analysis Women in Europe



Chomsky, a radical rooted in the past 8



## Jobs for the girls

The EU ringingly declared this week that women were at the heart of work policies. Fine. Then why are so few women in the top posts, including in the EU itself? **Martin Walker** investigates

ON THE surface, it looked like a grand day for Europe's women in Brussels yesterday, as all fifteen European Union member states attended their first Council meeting on women's affairs to sign a declaration that they would all henceforth put women "at the heart of EU and national employment policies". So they should. Under last year's Amsterdam treaty articles 2 and 3 of the EU's fundamental law have been amended to outlaw discrimination based on sex and to commit the EU to "promote equality and eliminate inequalities between men and women".

In Brussels itself, women were to the fore yesterday. The commission's annual statement on the fight against fraud was unveiled by the Swedish commissioner for justice and legal affairs, Anita Gradin. Italy's commissioner, Emma Bonino, released her budget for the EU's humanitarian operations. Denmark's commissioner for the environment, Ritt Bjerregaard, just back from signing the Kyoto protocol on global warming on Europe's behalf at the United Nations last week, released her own plan to bring the new EU applicants from eastern Europe into line with EU environmental rules.

And at the European parliament yesterday, the British MEP Pauline Green, who runs the Socialist group, the largest political body in the parliament, announced the way the MEPs would handle their hearings into the six people nominated to run Europe's new Central Bank. Planning

her was the head of parliament's monetary committee, Christa Randzio-Plath. All very impressive. On the face of it, an image of women in power that is not matched in the US, in Japan, in Russia or China or even at the United Nations.

But note that the six members of the new central bank board are all men, with the single exception of Finland's central bank chief, Sirikka Hämäläinen.

The people who picked the bank board at last weekend's EU summit were the fifteen national heads of government, all of them men. It was, the same last year, at the EU summit in Amsterdam, when the only woman was the hostess, Queen Beatrix. It will be the same again when Queen Elizabeth hosts next month's EU summit in Cardiff.

At the Brussels special summit last Saturday, each of the fifteen EU member states had a delegation of three: prime minister, foreign and finance ministers. Of those 45, only three were women: Denmark's finance minister, Finland's foreign minister, and a top civil servant from Luxembourg, standing in for her (male) foreign minister.

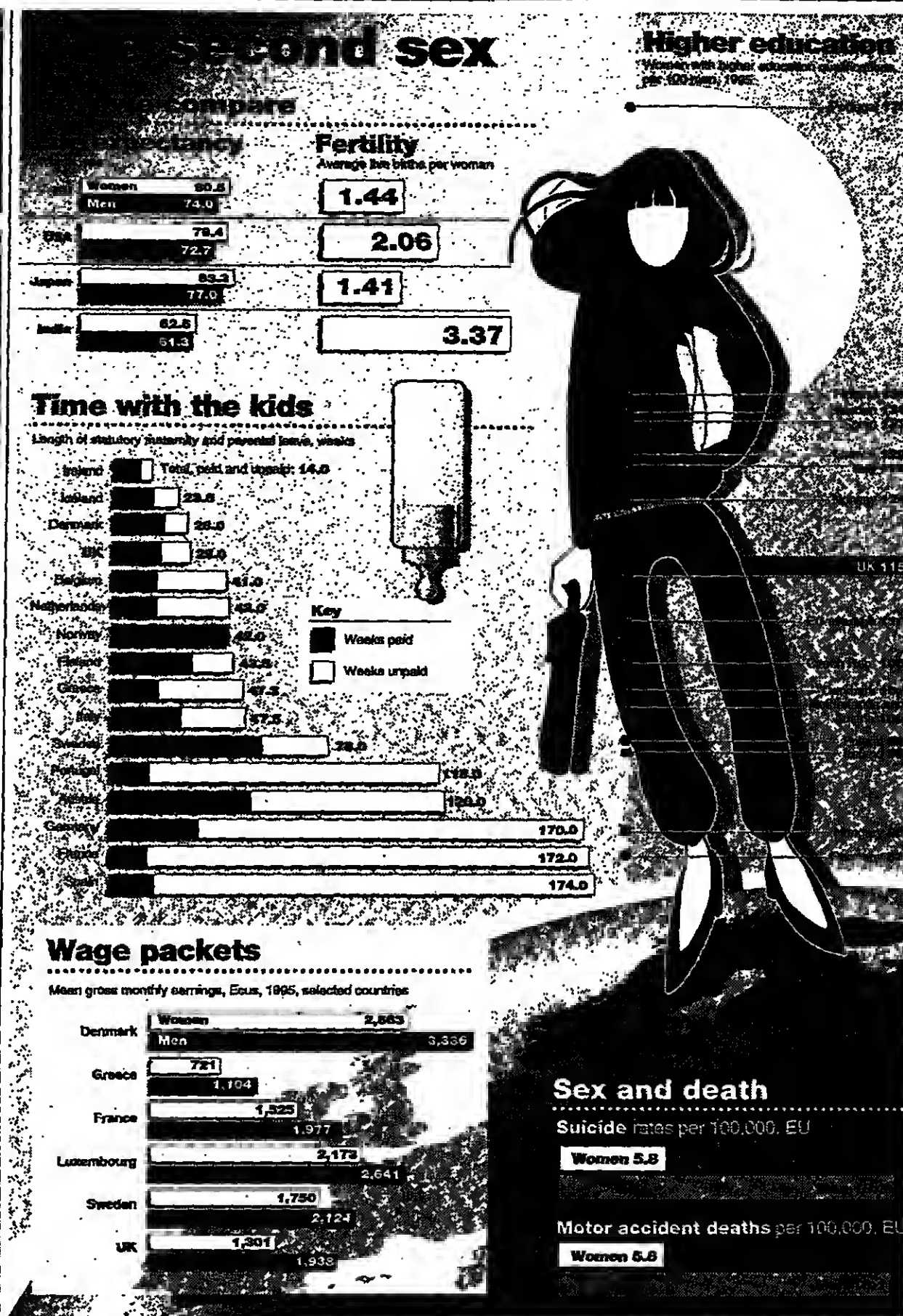
In a survey it published last year, the Council of Europe (which brings together all 40 countries of the continent, including Russia), found that women "remain severely under-represented" in politics and public life across Europe. In six countries, there were no women ministers at all. Sweden did best, where women accounted for almost half of the MEPs and for half of the ministers. On average across Europe,

women account for about 12 per cent of ministerial jobs and parliamentary seats.

Britain does better than the all-European average, but worse than the EU average. On the Council's rating for women in politically powerful jobs, Britain came ninth out of the 15 EU members. Without last year's election, which brought new women Labour MPs and five women ministers into a cabinet of 22, Britain's record would have been a lot worse. The House of Commons is now 18.5 per cent female, close to the European average.

The European parliament has 500 seats, of which 167 are held by women. The European Commission likes to boast that "at the highest level" it has five women commissioners alongside 15 men.

**P**ADRAIG FLYNN, the Irish commissioner for social affairs, boasted to the European Parliament in the debate last September on the first annual report on equal opportunities within the EU, that after the latest round of promotions in the commission bureaucracy, the number of women at senior level had risen from five to 18. True, but the staff unions point out that in higher and middle management, just below the "visible layer" of top jobs, men outnumber women by five to one. The social affairs directorate looked at its hiring and promotion rules, and found that they had — without meaning to do so — installed a glass ceiling which discriminated against women. The key to this was the commission's age limits for



tional right of equal opportunity. That ruling helped to invigorate the campaign by women's organisations to ensure that the Amsterdam treaty included a commitment to women's rights.

But last year, the European Court of Justice heard the Marshall case, brought by a German male teacher from Westphalia, who complained that a woman had got the job for which he was equally qualified, simply because men outnumbered women in that career bracket. The court reversed the Kalanke decision and the advice of its own advocate-general and ruled that Herr Marshall was wrong. Positive action to appoint women in preference to equally-qualified men to public-sector jobs was legal, so long as it was not based on rigid quotas.

**T**HE third effort comes from the women's lobby and the NGOs, which is trying to put real life and real people into the theoretical opportunities opened by the courts and treaties. After holding their first women's summit alongside the Luxembourg special summit on jobs last year, it is holding another women's summit in Cardiff this year to match the all-male EU event.

The European Women's Lobby has just published its first talent bank, a list of names and addresses and contact numbers for over 2,700 women experts all across Europe, on every topic of public concern, from defence to banking, education to policing, from the environment to scientific research.

"There are no more excuses for policy-makers who claim they cannot find women experts," said the Dutch MEP Jessica Larive, when the women's talent bank was launched last week. The talent bank has the explicit target of redressing the imbalance between men and women in EU decision-making, which the EWL sees as the explanation for stagnation, poll surveys which show women significantly more sceptical about Europe than men.

"Europe has many problems, as evidenced by the process towards monetary union. And yet in the negotiating rooms, you will find mostly men. Women are not the problem too," said Barbara Helfferich, secretary-general of the EWL. Indeed they can. But the fact remains that the most significant woman Europe has produced in living memory has been Margaret Thatcher, the outstanding example of the irony that a woman in high office is more about power than about women.

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# FinanceGuardian

## Daimler-Benz and Chrysler on road to £55bn alliance



The future's bright... Robert Eaton (left) and Robert Lutz, Chrysler vice-chairman, launch the attention-grabbing Plymouth Prowler in Detroit in 1996. PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF KOWALSKY

### Wraps are taken off secret talks

Jan Traynor in Bonn  
Mark Tran in New York  
and Chris Barrie

**D**AIMLER-Benz and Chrysler stunned the motor industry yesterday by revealing talks over a \$90 billion (£55 billion) alliance which would be the world's biggest industrial merger.

If a year of secret talks culminates in a deal, it would cause a huge shake-up in the global automotive industry with potential implications for Europe's aerospace and defence industry.

As Daimler-Benz's supervisory board met in Stuttgart

last night to discuss a deal, share prices in the two companies shot up on the back of analysts' appreciation of the neat fit of the two groups.

The US company's stock rose \$5 to \$46, giving one shareholder, the entrepreneur Kirk Kerkorian, particularly reason to celebrate. His investment company, Tracinda, saw the value of its 13.4 per cent Chrysler stake, the legacy of a failed takeover bid in 1995, rise by \$524 million.

Daimler-Benz shares rose by 10 per cent at one point to within a whisker of their all-time high of DM198.

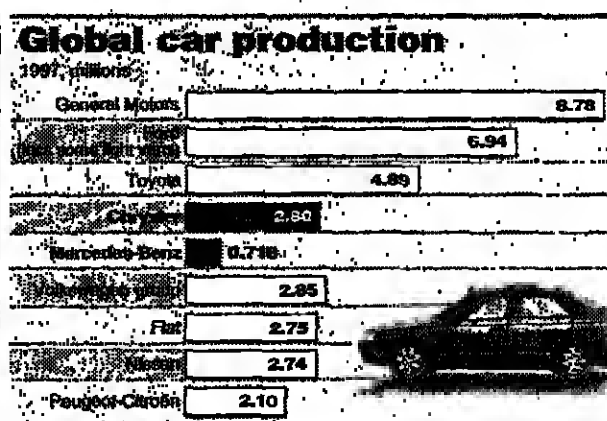
The combination of Chrysler, the third-biggest US carmaker, and Daimler-Benz, Germany's largest industrial

group, would create one of the largest vehicle makers in the world. Operations would span the globe and products would range from the upmarket Mercedes range to Chrysler's much-maligned Jeeps.

Together, Daimler and Chrysler would employ 412,000 people and have sales of \$131 billion a year.

The two companies warned that a deal had not yet been struck although they indicated that if it did go through it would be done through a share-swap operation. Industry sources suggested a price tag of up to \$55 billion for Chrysler.

The euphoric reaction was not confined to the two companies. Investors drove prices in other automotive stocks higher in the belief that a Daimler-Benz/Chrysler merger could trigger similar moves elsewhere in the industry. There are pressures within the sector to consolidate in the face of overcapacity and increasing competi-



tion from low-cost producers in emerging markets.

An alliance would vindicate Daimler-Benz chairman Jürgen Schrempp's strategy of concentrating on core businesses and Chrysler chairman Robert Eaton's drive to expand outside the US.

German analysts said the

firms were ideally placed to benefit from mutual strengths and weaknesses in different markets. About one-fifth of Daimler's turnover of DM 124 billion (£42 billion) last year was in the US. The deal would boost Daimler's presence in the US enormously while helping Chrysler to create a stronger presence in Europe.

"Usually these mergers happen out of necessity, because one of the partners is weak and ripe for takeover," said a German car industry analyst. "This is different. They will be able to share their dealer networks in Europe and the US. They can co-operate on future models and cut costs by pooling components supply. They can open new markets together in Asia and eastern Europe."

The reaction was the same in the US. "To some extent there is a hand-in-glove fit," said Scott Merlis, an analyst with Merlis Automotive International Inc. "I would say it looks like a match made in heaven to the extent the two cultures can coexist."

Carel Rhyss, SMMT professor of motor industry economics at Cardiff Business School, said the deal would make Daimler-Benz the first European car company to have true global reach, duplicating its existing strength in the truck market.

### Notebook

## Motor marques a good match



Edited by Mark Milner

**I**F THE Chrysler and Daimler-Benz deal comes off it will be the world's biggest industrial merger. The combination would have a market capitalisation of around \$90 billion (£54.2 billion) — putting it in the same price bracket as the banking super-

deals.

Although it would bring together two companies with very different corporate histories, the prospect has analysts on both sides of the Atlantic licking their lips.

The numbers are slightly deceptive, however. The deal is about cars and vans and trucks. It is hard to see synergies for Daimler-Benz's trains and planes. Indeed there is already speculation about what will happen to Daimler-Benz Aerospace.

In purely automotive terms, however, Chrysler and Daimler-Benz are seen as a good match. In Mercedes, Daimler has an enviable brand name. Chrysler has done well in picking out handy niches, especially in the sport utilities market. The geographic fit looks neat, too.

As Professor Garel Rhyss at Cardiff University points out the key post-merger challenge will be to boost Chrysler's mass market car business in the US. It should be possible to sell Mercedes cars alongside the Chrysler marque but the two will have to find different but complementary images. The nearest comparison here is probably BMW's acquisition of Rover, though Chrysler is already profitable.

Inevitably the move will have fee-hungry merchant bankers wondering what other big mergers they can dream up. A note of caution. Yesterday's announcement may change the industrial landscape — if it happens and if it works.

### Best of both worlds

**A**BOUT has long been committed to sweeping away the last vestiges of "clubby" City regulation — in which chaps admonish other chaps with a quiet word — and put the whole thing on a statutory footing.

Then again there has been understandable frustration over the very small numbers of people prosecuted for insider dealing over the last decade, for example. Few would believe that number equates to the full extent of the abuse.

So, separately, the effectiveness of self-regulation and the criminal justice system have been questioned.

Nonetheless the new powers look like an attempt by the authorities to have the best of both worlds. The Financial Services Authority is going to have unlimited power to fine and the power

to launch criminal prosecutions. The seriousness of the offence may be the criterion by which the FSA chooses which route to go. But there must be a temptation for prosecutors to opt for the one which they see as most likely to bring a result. Where fines are imposed there is an independent appeal tribunal, but no initial "court".

Alternatively the FSA may invite those it is accusing of wrongdoing to accept a fine or face protracted criminal proceedings.

Quite how the Serious Fraud Office views the FSA's prosecutorial role is unclear, especially as the latter is to be given "hot-pursuit" powers to go after unregulated people and firms.

There is also the question of how well the new regime will stack up against the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights. It is unlikely to be long before the FSA has to justify itself before the courts in Strasbourg.

### Harsh verdict

**J**UDGING by the share price and the earnings record, Lord David Sainsbury has let down the family whose supermarket business will now slip out of family direction.

That is an unjust assessment, blurred by the short-sightedness which is brought on by studying such numbers on City screens.

David Sainsbury may not have been an instinctive grocer, and was certainly more comfortable in the boardroom than gladdening customers — or City analysts. But he was responsible for the most difficult period in any family company's development — the transition to non-family direction.

What is more, he had to manage that transition at a time when leading competitors, Tesco and Asda, were recovering strongly, and when recession plus planning changes had ripped up the rules under which the supermarkets had prospered in the 1980s.

And he had to manage a different transition, from a company dominated by his cousin, Lord John, to a modern corporation able to react quickly without instructions from the top.

That change was not managed as well as it might have been, mainly because David Sainsbury was not brutal enough. But over five years he created a strong team. And while there were two years of declining profits, the lowest point was a profit of £661 million — not exactly the verge of bankruptcy.

The drive into the US cannot be said to have paid off yet and could prove an expensive mistake, while the development of Homebase, including the takeover of Texas Homecare, has also been problematic. On the other hand diversification is necessary, and the other new business, Sainsbury's Bank, seems to be powering ahead.

It may not have been a glorious chairmanship, but nor has it been the disaster which some in the City would claim.

## Bumper year on the cards

IAN KING sees no sign of overheating as merger mania hits full throttle

**N**EW of the possible deal between Chrysler and Daimler-Benz confirms that 1998 is likely to be a record year for mergers and acquisitions.

Over the past month, three of the 10 biggest deals ever have broken, including the \$70 billion merger between Citicorp and Travelers, the \$60 billion tie-up between America's NationsBank and BankAmerica and the \$41 billion merger between WorldCom

and MCI — the company BT nearly bought last year. Already during 1998, mergers and acquisitions totalling \$788 billion have been announced. Many of these deals, for tax purposes, have been presented as a merger of equals, despite being takeovers in all but name — a situation which is thought to be providing sleepless nights for US regulators.

American companies are also looking across the Atlantic, with a survey sug-

gesting yesterday that, during the first three months of the year, US companies snapped up a record number of their European rivals. Top of most US buyers' shopping lists, according to the survey, were British companies. US firms splashed out a total of \$7.6 billion on European companies during the period.

Second to the Americans — in terms of the amount spent — were Swiss companies, which paid \$2.6 billion for European rivals, taking in a total of 21 deals. But measured by the number of different acquisitions completed, British

companies — which spent just over \$1 billion during the period — came second, doing 60 deals.

Companies based in Bermuda were also high on the list, buying four businesses for \$1.5 billion, although nearly all of this was accounted for by March's sale of the Dewar's Scotch and Bombay gin brands by food and drinks giant Diageo to Beacraft.

However, British companies were more likely to be taken over by overseas rivals during the period than any of their European counterparts, with 131 firms being sold for a total of \$12.4 billion.

### PROFILE/Blair's choice

**C**HRYSLER is the third largest car-maker in the United States but has always been outgunned by rivals, General Motors and Ford, writes Nicholas Barnister.

Chrysler is best known in Britain for its 4x4 Jeep, but it secured a publicity coup this year when Tony Blair swapped his family Ford Galaxy for a top-of-the-range seven-seater Chrysler Grand Voyager.

It was founded by ex-Buick engineer Walter P Chrysler and was the first largest US car company by 1926 but, after its founder's death in 1940, embarked on an ill-fated strategy of overseas investment, acquiring Rootes in Britain and Simca in France.

By 1979 its share of the US market had slumped to 9 per cent, but then Lee Iacocca, a sacked Ford president, took over and persuaded the US government and the company pension fund to bail out the group. He cut jobs — staff numbered 282,000 in 1977 but 60,000 in 1992 — and introduced new models to turn the company around.

Chrysler saw off a \$22.8 billion (£13.7 billion) takeover approach from billionaire investor Kirk Kerkorian in 1995 and today has secured nearly half the US market for light trucks, the one booming part of the US motor industry.

The group reported a net profit of \$2.8 billion on sales of \$61 billion in 1997. Last month it announced record first-quarter profits, helped by sales of its new Dodge Durango.

## Bae soars on German rumours

Talk of closer ties with Dasa may be premature, writes MARK MILNER

**S**HARES in British Aerospace powered ahead yesterday driven by speculation that a possible merger between Chrysler and Daimler-Benz could lead to closer links between the UK company and the German industrial group's defence and aircraft building subsidiary.

Analysts believe that closer co-operation between Bae and Daimler-Benz Aerospace could bring huge savings in areas such as design, research and development.

They consider, however, that a full-scale acquisition of

Dasa, constituting most of Germany's aerospace industry, by Bae would be politically impossible.

Talk of closer links between the two is regarded as premature by some, but a US-German alliance could raise questions about what will happen at Dasa.

"This is a motors deal not an aerospace deal. It may mean a greater element of flexibility over how the Dasa situation is resolved than would otherwise have been possible," said Andrew Chambers, at Société Générale

petus towards closer links with Dasa. But rationalisation is on the way. In addition to considering closer co-operation with Aerospaciale and Dasa, Bae has announced plans to pay \$289 million for a 35 per cent stake in Saab, of Sweden, which makes the Gripen aircraft and which has a deal under which the UK company markets the Swedish-built fighter.

Westland, the British helicopter maker and a subsidiary of GEC, is in merger talks with Agusta, while GEC's Marconi subsidiary is expected to be a key player in the restructuring of the defence electronics industry.

Yesterday Bae shares closed up 29.5p at \$32.5p.

### PROFILE/Class player

**D**AIMLER-BENZ is Europe's largest industrial group with roots going back to Karl Benz, who in 1885 built the first car powered by an internal combustion engine, writes Nicholas Barnister.

The group is still a classy player, owning Mercedes cars and commercial vehicles. But its interests now take in aerospace, defence and a clutch of other businesses.

However, the company is seen as too fat and too dear. It is a situation the new management team led by Jürgen Schrempp is determined to end. Last month he set out his strategy, laying down a rate of return targets of 12 per cent and forecasting that global sales would double to DM250 billion (about \$253 billion) within 10 years.

Dasa, the aerospace and defence business, has already ended years of losses and is expected to play a key role in reshaping Europe's aircraft and defence businesses.

Growth prospects for Mercedes are thought to be more limited. Cars account for 40 per cent of group sales and 75 per cent of operating profits. Commercial vehicles contribute 29 per cent of sales but only 7 per cent of profits.

Last year Mercedes had to recall its new "A" class car for modification after it failed the so-called "moose test", by flipping on its side. The Daimler-Benz group still reported an operating profit for 1997 of DM4.3 billion.

## Rise in viewers leaving Sky

Simon Beavis

**T**HE number of viewers tuning out of Sky satellite television services has risen to its highest level in more than four years, leaving BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by Rupert Murdoch, increasingly dependent on the launch of digital services this autumn to win back subscribers.

Third quarter figures yesterday showed that levels of churn — the number of viewers not renewing Sky subscriptions — rose to 18 per cent in the last three months.

A spokesman agreed that the figures had not been as high since the company's float in 1994. But he put the increase down to "seasonal patterns" and

BSkyB's decision to reduce efforts to lure back subscribers with special offers.

New subscriptions also rose more slowly, up 107,000 to 6.8 million, compared with 120,000 new subscribers in the same period last year. Dish sales rose only 2,500, against 44,000 last year.

The figures came with news that BSkyB's profits before tax fell \$12 million in the first nine months to \$203 million. This was mainly because of a fall in operating profits, in turn hit by higher programming costs which were up \$96 million to \$507 million.

There was also a \$4 million cost associated with the start of BSkyB, the interactive television joint venture with BT, which remains stuck with competition regulators in Brussels.

### TOURIST RATES — BANK GELLS

Australia 20.13	Germany 2.650	Malaysia 6.10	Singapore 2.8
Austria 20.13	Greece 49.53	Mexico 0.6286	South Africa 8.77
Belgium 58.02	Hong Kong 12.50	Netherlands 3.2114	Spain 161.52
Canada 2.33	India 65.978	New Zealand 2.84	Sweden 22.37
Cyprus 0.64	Ireland 1.1395	Norway 11.80	Switzerland 2.28
Denmark 10.97	Israel 6.13	Portugal 282.30	Turkey 401.410
Finland 6.779	Italy 2.844	Saudi Arabia 6.12	USA 1.6288
France 9.75			

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## Racing Court Bailey right

**T**HE Court of Appeal has ruled that the racing industry's rules on the use of performance-enhancing drugs are not incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

The ruling, which came in a 2-1 decision, allows the industry to continue its fight against doping. The majority judges said that the rules were necessary to protect the integrity of the sport and that the industry had taken steps to ensure that the rules were fair and reasonable.

The ruling is a significant victory for the racing industry, which has been facing a series of challenges from the European Commission over its doping rules. The Commission had argued that the rules were discriminatory and that they violated the Convention's prohibition on discrimination on the basis of nationality.

The Court of Appeal's decision is a clear signal that the racing industry's rules are valid and that the industry can continue its fight against doping. The ruling is a welcome relief for the racing industry, which has been facing a series of challenges from the European Commission over its doping rules.

**C**HESTER JACKSON, a leading racing pundit, has been named as the new head of the racing industry's anti-doping efforts. The appointment is a significant move, as Jackson has been a leading voice in the industry's fight against doping for many years.

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# Benson and Hedges Cup

Kent v Surrey

## Captains take it on the chin

David Hopps at Canterbury

"I'MAGE is important," pronounced Lord MacLaurin upon the conduct required from the new England captain, and today his Lordship will be heading himself with satisfaction. Not one England captain but two, dismissed in the most unjust fashion and striding off with dignity intact. When it comes to uncompromising professionalism, Alec Stewart and Adam Hogg are the new England captains, and one-day sides respectively, take pride in the fact that they have no peers, but yesterday it was their impeccable standards of behaviour which caught the attention as they fell victim to two bizarre umpiring decisions which might have cost Surrey victory.

That Surrey did not pay that price was thanks primarily to Graham Thorpe's orderly 85 not out from 94 balls, which enabled them to overhaul Kent's 260 for nine with four wickets and three overs to spare, complementing their eight-wicket triumph against the same opponents in last season's Lord's final. They are now assured of a home quarter-final.

Lunch with Lord MacLaurin, and Stewart is already on course for a good-conduct medal. When Kent's left-arm spinner Min Patel claimed a tumbling return catch which television replays clearly confirmed had hit the ground, Stewart would have been within his rights to request further clarification.

Patel trapped the ball in his arms, grounded it on the umpire John Harris's blind side as he rolled over, and then

rescued it with his left hand. Only rarely would a fielder be so oblivious to the fact that such a catch was not clean. "As far as I was concerned I caught the ball cleanly," Patel said.

Stewart accepted Patel's appeal so chivalrously that Harris did not even have to raise his finger.

"I've heard about the replays but I've no comment," Stewart said. "He rolled over, so I didn't have a clue. They both nodded and I wandered off, clean-shaven and in new whites ... you know how it is."

Lord MacLaurin has spoken to me about public image, but my behaviour is not about to change. Stewart's unbending professionalism was much to the fore during England's tour of the Caribbean. He was involved in his own "catch" controversy at slip during the Barbados Test when Shivnarine Chanderpaul drove the ball into the ground. Also in Barbados, during a warm-up game, he openly gestured to an umpire that there had not been the statutory six fielders in the circle, but he was given out all the same.

If Stewart's dismissal yesterday, for 40, deserved recourse to the third umpire, the same was equally indisputable in that of Hollislock 18



Grace note ... Alec Stewart is on his best behaviour despite his wrongful dismissal yesterday

GRAHAM CHADWICK

Durham v Scotland

## Speight flurry shatters Scots

Robert Kitson at Chester-le-Street

WHEN Scotland head south of the border to the Riverside ground here to face Pakistan in next year's World Cup, they will settle for a finish as close as this. Only a late flurry from Martin Speight saw Durham home by two wickets with nine balls to spare and prevented the Scots' first B & H victory for eight seasons. Chasing Scotland's 230 for six, built around Dougie Lockhart's serene 75, the home side were marooned at 120 for five in the 37th over until Speight clipped in with 55 during a stand of 83 in 11 overs with Mike Foster. Even then Durham contrived to lose three quick wickets and it needed successive fours by Mervyn Dymally to keep the Scots at bay.

Scotland will be based in this area for their entire World Cup campaign, but whether they can emulate Kenya by beating a major Test-playing nation will depend, as

yesterday, on whether they can make enough runs quickly enough.

Scottish batsmen do not relish punch-hitting. Their top order treated gaps in the field with the utmost suspicion and there was an almost puritanical streak to some of the running between the wickets. Bryn Lockie blocked his way to 54 in 40 overs and entering the 48th over his side had just two wickets down. Lockhart, a 22-year-old former Durham University student at Oxford, eventually missed an attempted heave and the sole consolation for the home side's blunt attack was leaving extras stranded on 49.

Lockhart, the Gold Award winner, also ran out Jon Lewis with a direct hit and caught Nick Speight but Scotland's slow start proved costly.

David Boon would have enjoyed the jelly babies and humbugs delivered to the dressing room following a mix-up over lunch arrangements, but his team will want to forget this sticky episode.

Gloucestershire v British Universities

## Students inspired by House master

THE British Universities produced the shock of the B & H Cup semi-final when they defeated Gloucestershire by seven runs at Bristol yesterday. The students owed it all to an educational performance from their House master. Will House took five for 58 and the Gold Award.

The students posted an impressive total of 279 for five in their 50 overs, the 22-year-old Kent and Cambridge University all-rounder hitting 64 off 44

balls after his team had lost the toss and were inserted. Then House stepped up with his medium pacers to help peg back Gloucestershire on 272 for nine and that despite Jack Russell's one-day best of 119 not out, much of it in tandem with Tony Wright who chipped in for 59. The home side had only themselves to blame, though, spilling three catches.

The Universities opener Amar Singh had set the tone with 56 off 88 balls, sharing a second-wicket stand of 96 with Mark Chil-ton who made 54. Then came the acceleration. House crashing two sixes and seven fours.

Gloucestershire were soon in trouble at 29 for three before a superb stand between Russell and Wright added 267 for the fourth wicket. Russell's runs came off 137 balls, with a six and eight fours, while Wright's were scored off 99 deliveries and included 10 boundaries.

Robin Martin-Jenkins was the pick of the Universities bowlers, sending down 10 overs and conceding 39 runs for his three wickets.

The prospect of women becoming members of the MCC moved a step closer last night when the club's annual general meeting agreed to send questionnaires to members to ascertain the exact nature of their objections to females joining. The survey will be conducted this summer.

Northamptonshire v Leicestershire

## More goodies as Maddy applies for England vacancy

David Foot at Northampton

THERE appears to be at least one vacancy at the top of the England batting order and here, in a single showing, were a pair of feisty candidates. Leicestershire won by eight wickets with more than 10 overs left and there was never much doubt about the result after the Gold Award winner

Darren Maddy (89) and Iain Suttcliffe (55) had put on 123 before being parted.

There were nine boundaries and a pleasing composure from the left-hander Suttcliffe until he was caught at backward point after a 66-ball innings. Maddy, increasingly seen as the opener to be on, stayed until the 37th over. Like his partner, he drove and pulled with freedom and wisdom.

One six scored out of the ground, when, not long after, Ben Smith did the same, the blow narrowly failed to reach the rows of emerging back-garden potatoes. Devon Malcolm dismissed Maddy with some additional bounce, but by then Northants' hopes in the competition had faded for another year, although Leicestershire are still not certain to go through themselves.

The portents were bad for Northants when Mal Loye was out to the first ball he received. With the gritty exception of Tony Penberthy's knock of 62, and less so Rob Bailey, Kevin Curran and Tim Walton, they never remotely looked like gaining control over the Leicestershire attack in which Alan Mullally and the off-spinner Tim Mason each took three wickets.

# SPORTS NEWS 15

Tennis

## Rain confounds Rusedski after day buffeted on helter-skelter

Richard Jago in Hamburg

GREG RUSEDSKI endured one of the most frustrating matches of his career while trying to earn his first clay-court victory of the year at a watery and windy German Open yesterday. Rusedski's match with the Spaniard Emilio Alvarez, already postponed by a day, began two hours late, was delayed a further two hours with three interruptions called off for the night with Rusedski leading 3-2 in the final set.

He could hardly have had more irritations placed in his way. The surface is his least favourite and the gale which bent the nearby poplars also tugged at his loose, making service winners difficult and aces virtually impossible.

Worse still, the sudden helter-skelter for the shelters made it hard to find rhythm and confidence with his ground strokes. The second seed is still in danger of losing to a qualifier when Rusedski resumes at 7-6, 0-6, 3-2 and 30-15 up on Alvarez's serve.

Marcelo Rios, who last month lost his world No. 1 ranking without hitting a ball because of an elbow injury, lost his comeback match.

This was not so surprising, for after a month's ring-rust the top-seeded Chilean was confronted by Wayne Ferreira, a former top-tenner with realistic ambitions to be a future top-tenner.

Wise Rios took comfort from being able to take part at

all. "My arm is a little sore, but it is much better than it was," he said after his 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 loss to the South African. "I feel I will be okay for the French Open." He has 2½ weeks to improve further.

Thomas Muster confounded both the seedings and those saying he should retire by being the first to reach the third round. His 6-4, 6-2 win over the third-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov was followed by the accusation that "people have been trying to bury me alive".

Muster has had persistent hip problems, possibly due to the several knee ligaments caused by a drunk driver in a road accident nine years ago in Key Biscayne, and recently a Davis Cup doctor suggested the 30-year-old should retire to avoid further complications.

"He hadn't seen me for six months. It was some kind of vision he had. Now I read on the ATP internet that I'm preparing for retirement, which is bullshit. Everyone around me is telling me to retire and I don't feel I want to," said the former world No. 1.

Muster was briefly at a loss to explain why this should be. Then he happened on a reason. "Maybe you have to have a full head of hair or something," he said.

Jana Novotna, the world No. 2, maintained her record of never having won a match in the Italian Open when Alexandra Fusai, of France, beat her 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 yesterday. She has lost all four matches she has played there, spanning 10 years.

Motor Sport

## McRae doubles up as Sainz flops

David Williams in Ajaccio

COLIN McRAE became the first driver to win two rounds of this year's rallying World Championship when he took the Tour of Corsica in his Subaru Impreza yesterday, ahead of the Frenchman Francois Delcourt and Italy's Piero Liati.

The Scot, who won in Corsica last year and survived the threat of disqualification for illegal tyres on Monday, finished 27.2sec clear of Delcourt's Peugeot 306 in 4hr 2min 46.5sec with his Subaru team-mate Liati less than three seconds adrift in third.

McRae's win, against all expectations, puts him on 24 points after six of the 14 rounds, two ahead of Spain's Carlos Sainz, who was eighth and scored no points. England's Richard Burns (18 points) is third overall despite failing to finish here.

A fortnight ago in Catalonia, the Subaru team took their worst beating in five years. Yet in Corsica, on similar terrain, McRae led for three-quarters of the distance and became the first non-Frenchman in the event's 42-year history to win it twice in a row.

McRae's 15th success at world championship level was an opportunist triumph, based on exploiting the superiority of his Pirelli tyres in rain which affected half the rally, not to mention the stewards' generosity in reinstating him after he was disqualified for running on bald tyres on the first of the three legs.

"It was fairly easy. We took most of the advantage on the first day," said McRae. "Last year's rally was a lot more difficult. It's nice because Corsica is a very difficult rally to win, and it says something for me and the team and the car."

But the outcome might have been very different had the rally been dry throughout. After Catalonia, the drivers didn't want to come here, said one member of the team, putting the current tyre war into stark perspective.

Sainz remained a threat in his Toyota until he gambled on using tyres without puncture-proof inserts because, theoretically, they offer a performance advantage in hot conditions. Instead he had a puncture for his pains, as he did in Catalonia.

Martin Rowe, the British Championship leader, was 14th in a Renault on his first attempt at the rally and the other British novice, McRae's younger brother Alister, was 15th in his badly overheating Hyundai.

# Scoreboard

**Second XI Championship**

Derbyshire	24	Middlesex	33
Durham	25	Northants	34
Essex	26	Nottingham	35
Glamorgan	27	Somerset	36
Gloucestershire	28	Surrey	37
Hampshire	29	Warwick	38
Kent	30	Sussex	39
Lancs	31	Worcestershire	40
Leics	32	Yorkshire	41

Complete county scores: 0930 16 13 23

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# Benson and Hedges Cup

Gloucestershire v British Universities

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# Cricket

Benson & Hedges Cup

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# Cricket

Benson & Hedges Cup

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Mass clear-out at Maine Road, page 14  
End is nigh for Norman, page 13

Stewart does walk of life, page 15  
Rusedski takes a rain check, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## England captain on the mat

Michael Walker says the Newcastle striker's World Cup role is unlikely to be affected as Lancaster Gate takes up the Lennon case

## Shearer raps FA summons

SEVEN days after Alan Shearer's left boot connected with the head of Leicester City's Neil Lennon, the Football Association last night asked the England captain to explain his actions.

No charge of misconduct has been made, nor is it certain that one will be lodged, but the FA has demonstrated its determination to be seen to treat every professional footballer equally, and Shearer has been given 14 days to respond to the offer of a personal hearing.

The FA, which has received no complaint from Lennon, Leicester City or the match referee Martin Bodenham but which has been criticised in some quarters for not reacting more quickly, said yesterday: "An FA Commission will consider an alleged breach of the rules by Alan Shearer following an incident in last week's Leicester City v Newcastle United match."

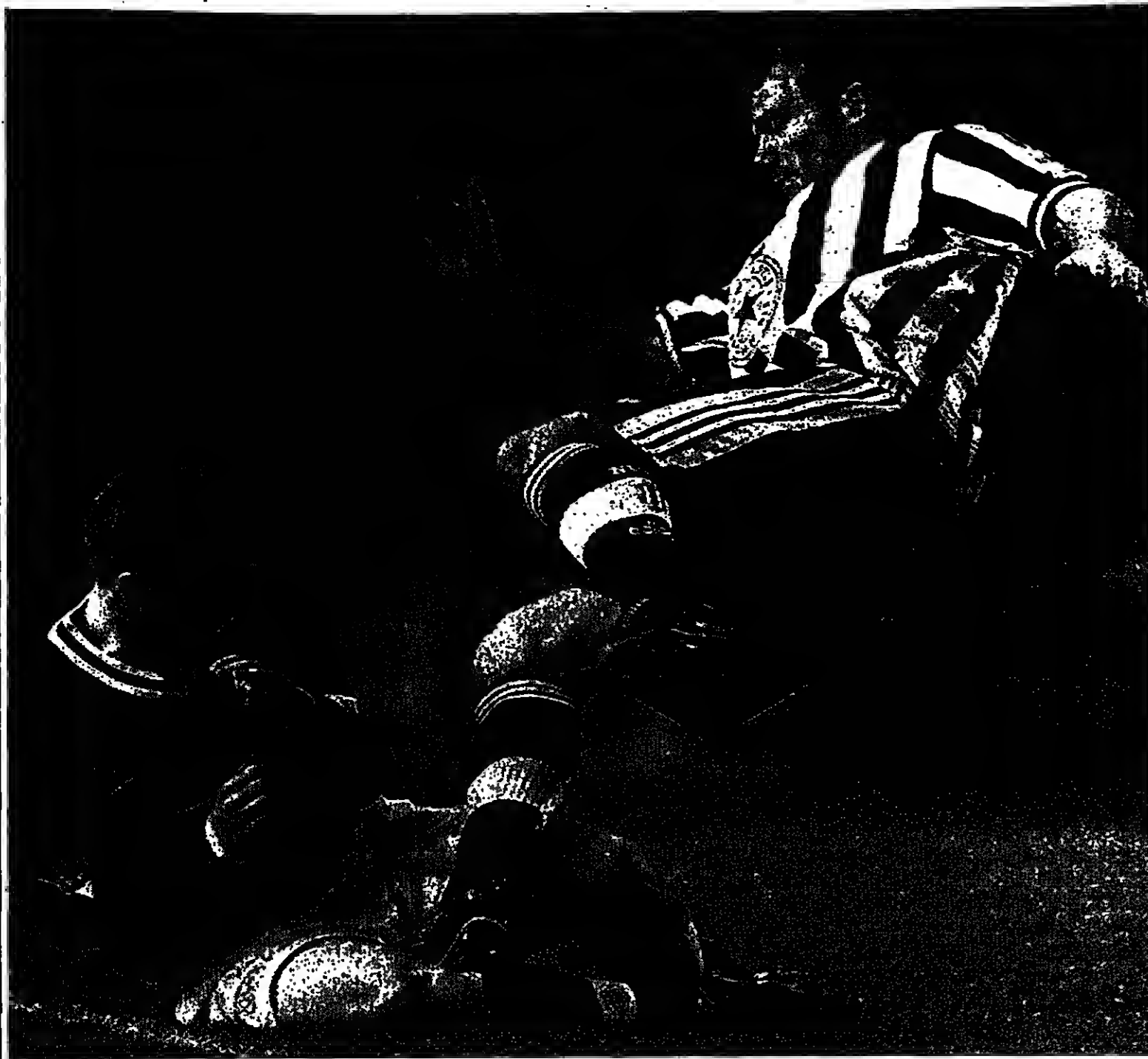
"The decision has been taken by the chief executive Graham Kelly after a video of the match was viewed. Graham Kelly believes it is in the interests of the game that Alan Shearer receives the fullest opportunity to explain to a commission what happened and, if necessary, call witnesses on his behalf. Depending on his response, it will be decided how and when to proceed."

Now it is up to Shearer to decide if he wants to travel to a hearing, although it could be argued that there is not much he can add to his response to the furore which originally greeted the challenge last Wednesday.

Then, Shearer, while accepting how serious the kick looked on television replays, stressed that it was an accident and last night he repeated that claim when reacting to the FA's decision.

"I fully understand the need for all players to be treated equally by the FA," Shearer said in a statement yesterday. "But I am disappointed that there is apparently nothing in the FA's rules which enables a player to state his case prior to an announcement like this. I am totally confident that I will eventually prove to everyone that the incident was not intentional."

The two-week response time means that Shearer's place in Newcastle's FA Cup final team on Saturday week is not in jeopardy, and even if the hearing was held before the World Cup and Shearer was found guilty of bringing



Flashpoint for controversy... Alan Shearer's left boot poised a split-second from contact with Neil Lennon's head at Leicester. PHOTOGRAPH: TIM KEETON

the game into dispute, or the lesser charge of misconduct, it is inconceivable that his England place in France would be threatened either.

Glenn Hoddle was unavailable for comment last night but the England coach, having defended Ian Wright and Paul Gascoigne in the recent past, would surely stand by his man

again, especially if Lennon appeared for the defence.

Although Leicester's manager Martin O'Neill said after the match that Shearer deserved to be sent off, his anger had abated by last weekend, and both he and Lennon regard the matter as closed. While Shearer's personality was publicly decon-

structed in the days after the incident, Lennon went out of his way to play it down.

Robert Lee, Shearer's international team-mate and his club captain at Newcastle, yesterday rushed to his side. "The FA need to be asked why this is happening," he said. "It's pretty ludicrous. Neil Lennon is not complain-

ing, Leicester City are not complaining and at the time of the incident Martin Bodenham awarded us a free-kick. In fact no one has complained, and you think how many times Alan Shearer could complain with the treatment he receives."

"It's a tough game, he gets knocked, he gets accidentally

elbowed; maybe the FA should consider that. We were all shocked by how it looked on television, because at pitch level it just looked like an ordinary tackle and then a scuffle."

Shearer's image away from the North-East has deteriorated in the past few months, and yesterday morning, as he watched Durham's Benson & Hedges Cup tie with Scotland from Newcastle United's training centre overlooking the Chester-le-Street ground, he must have yearned for cricket's quiet life.

## Farewell to Oz's lord of the flies



Frank Keating

IN SPORT, the ancient showbiz adage "Leave them wanting more" is all too often ignored by true greats as they continue to seek the downstage light of the limelight for yet another arthritic entrance and exit.

Not so in the case of Michael Lynagh. "There will be no change of mind," says the grand Australian, so Saturday's cup final at Twickenham will be his last bow on one of his world's most luminous stages. He will be 35 in October.

Lynagh was the most celebrated commander of the battalion of top-drawer ageing international missionaries (okay, if you will, "mercenary") which helped kick-start English rugby's professional era. As such he set an exemplary standard to make dramatic mock of the initial naivete and certainties that they had arrived only to boost their pension funds. Lynagh's performance and his general input have been exceptional.

After Twickenham, Saracens have one league match left, at home to Northampton, so a double for Lynagh remains a distinct possibility to garland his valedictory chapter. It may yet be that his fulminating drop goal at Vicarage Road which sealed at the last the recent 12-10 cliff-hanger against Saracens' championship rivals Newcastle will be seen as the stroke which settled the whole winter.

At that desperate finale, only one other fly-half in the world might have had the bottle to dare, and the skill — and he was the Newcastle emine- nence a few feet away, and cursing with admiration as he watched. For 15 years Rob Andrew's career has been entwined with Lynagh's — for starters they have played eight international matches against each other, score 4-4 — and England's former fly-half, eight months older, says: "Michael is a certain all-time great for history. Can any No. 10 ever have made his side tick so fluently? He has never played by numbers, as so many of us have been accused. His instant reading of an opportunity and his manipulation of the options is what makes him so utterly special."

Lynagh retired from international rugby after the World

Cup in 1995 with a record of 911 points in 72 matches. This winter he is nearing 300 points for Saracens, almost 60 per cent of their total. But he is more than an automaton hoover, much, much more. Running, he subtly tweaks or alters the fractional angles almost as well as his Wallaby mentor, the instinctive genius Mark Ella.

Lynagh's game, however, became more athletically competitive than Ella's, and his handling more slip-catch ad-hocive; in his attack support, as well as that crucial ability to reignite seemingly burned-out moves, he became about on a par with his flamboyant predecessor. His intuitive kicking from hand — short ones, long ones, dilly slipped ones — to redefine and announce in a trice the new area of attack is breathtakingly ahead of anyone who has ever played.

In search of perfection Lynagh has been a willing slave to practice. After that hoisting booray at Vicarage Road last month he said: "Funny, I put in a dozen drops from that very spot at practice yesterday." There has never been a flicker of conceit, and he has always looked both imposters straight and almost matily in the eye.

Overwhelmed by backslaps after the win against Newcastle, the laconic, genuine hero said: "I'd been out of sorts really, but I suppose it's a bit like a cricketer dropping three vital catches and then making a winning century as recompense."

THE cricket analogy is no accident. It was his passion as a Brisbane schoolboy, and in his early teens he was being talked of as a future Test player. His sporting hero remains the Queensland and national captain Greg Chappell, who retired in 1982 for John Arlott to write memorably on these pages: "Above all he was a match-winner in skill and temperament; the decisive decision-maker at the crucial period and the critical passage; a player of immense power, the more impressive for it being veiled by the certainty of his timing and an almost aesthetic sense of his elegance of movement; in everything there was an innate balance, and unburied speed, and safe hands."

"Also, he set his face against the 'permissive' in a looked-up-to sportsman; he spurned 'sledding' and bad manners, and he strove always to maintain the high standards he set."

That, word for word on his boyhood hero, serves as farewell to Michael Lynagh. Farewell, and all hail.

## Springboks on brink of isolation

John Perman in Johannesburg

SOUTH African rugby union, less than three years ago a symbol of national unity, could by this evening find itself the focus of demonstrations, trade union action and a renewed effort to reimpose the isolation of the apartheid years.

Only the resignation of Dr Louis Luyt, the autocratic president of the South African Rugby Football Union, will stave this off but the indications are that he will dig in his heels. That means only a clear vote of no-confidence from Sarfu's 14 member unions — some of whom have criticised the man in private, but backed him on every crucial decision — will be sufficient to remove from power this rugby strongman who has now become the sport's weakest link.

Sarfu meet at Ellis Park here this afternoon to consider a demand from the National Sports Council for the immediate resignation

of the organisation's entire executive. The NSC made this demand last month in the wake of intense public anger at Sarfu's legal challenge to the government commission of inquiry into this evening find itself the focus of demonstrations, trade union action and a renewed effort to reimpose the isolation of the apartheid years.

Sarfu has blocked efforts to probe allegations of racism, nepotism and financial irregularity in rugby union for more than a year. Sarfu has the backing of the sport's provincial leaders but the powerful Natal union has called for the "voluntary retirement of the current president of Sarfu".

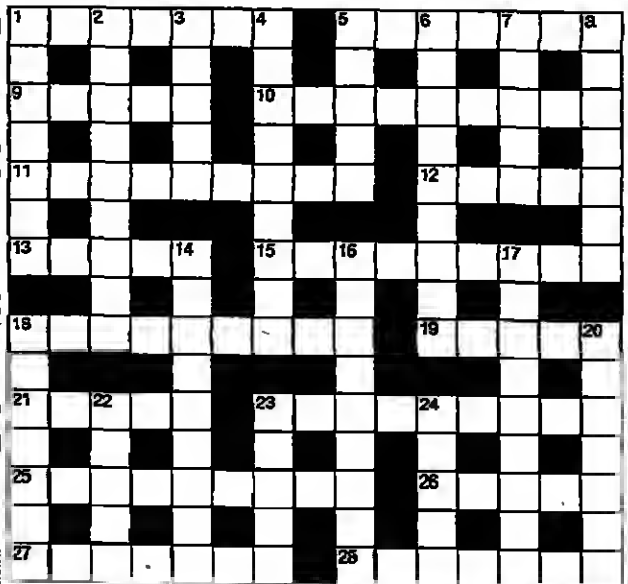
The likelihood of tours being cancelled — Ireland are the first to arrive this month — grows stronger each day. The call to isolate rugby has the backing of community organisations and the muscular Congress of South African Trade Unions. The spectre of protest action at airports, hotels and stadiums will make teams think twice about visiting.

**"I just want to be me. I'm fearless. I know that if I put my mind to it and believe I can do it then I can do it, and people do vibe off that."**  
Ian Wright, talk show host

G2 page 5

## Guardian Crossword No 21,268

Set by Gemini

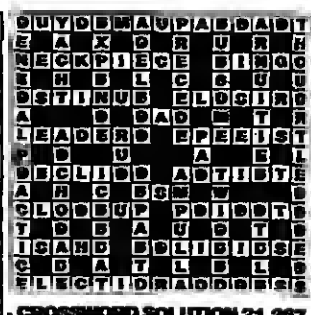


### Across

- 1 Belligerent, and d— cheeky (7)
- 5 City writer lacks style (7)
- 9 Close to a record (5)
- 10 Fowl pest affected March's production (9)
- 11 Passes on without a struggle (5,4)
- 12 Chain letters? (5)
- 13 Lift-shafts, say (5)
- 15 Ground has chute and giant swing (9)
- 16 Perhaps orange and pay a fulsome tribute (9)
- 19 Type of fuel oil refined in northern state (5)
- 21 Have a little bit of sense! (5)
- 23 One to tell, and tell again (9)
- 25 Music master's arrangement for the wind (9)
- 26 Health food (5)

### Down

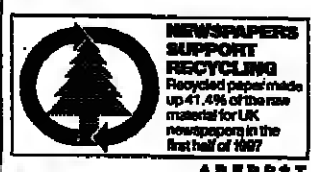
- 1 He's just up and looking less tired (7)
- 2 Holding the note, with a strain in the voice (9)
- 3 Old Ethiopian not half given hell! (5)
- 4 It's for the Minister to take the lead! (5,5)
- 5 Rook and knight provide cover for the king (5)
- 6 ... am drinking to the team three-quarters (9)
- 7 Appeared with Andronicus in the NT (5)
- 8 One position captured by soldiers in counter-thrust (7)
- 14 Things get whisked around by this helicopter (3-6)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,267

- 16 Common appellations for prison terms (8)
- 17 Discomfited, badly taking a leg-pull (3,2,4)
- 18 Be killed by a mine — that's the hidden danger (7)
- 20 Not in the document indicated (7)
- 22 The wages spiral? (5)
- 23 Way up river from the bay, say (5)
- 24 Drunk got fired! (3,2)

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